

Snubbed again

International gay group denied official attendance at UN racism conference.
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Shifting gears

Goldberg's TG bill put on two-year status.
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Adventures of a gay couple

Meet Olivier Ducastel and Jacques Martineau, 'Felix' filmmakers.
see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

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A Giants boost in fighting AIDS

Members of the San Francisco Giants took to the field at Pacific Bell Park Sunday, August 5 for the team's eighth annual "Until There's A Cure Day" game that helped raise funds to fight AIDS. The pregame ceremony featured the Glide Memorial United Methodist Church choir, panels from the AIDS Memorial Quilt, and the introduction of the players, who wore red ribbons on their uniforms. The Giants went on to beat the Philadelphia Phillies (whose members also wore red ribbons on their uniforms) 8-4. The event raised \$40,000 for the Until There's A Cure Foundation.

Oakland gay bar faces hearing over men kissing

by David Fraser

Smile, if you're a guy kissing a guy. You may be under surveillance by the Oakland Police Department.

Charles Bisbee, owner of the gay Bench & Bar Cabaret, says he's fighting against an effort by Oakland's city government and police department to close down his popular dance bar. The bar has been under police surveillance at least twice — as recently as May — following complaints from a nearby apartment building about noise, public sex at an adjacent parking lot, and other issues.

One of the items reported by officers watching the establishment late at night is mouth-to-mouth, male-to-male osculation, although the police referred to it as two males kissing.

Bisbee is facing a hearing on suspension or revocation of the permit for his cabaret at 120 11th Street, based on the neighbors' complaints as documented by police. The details are spelled out in the public hearing notice.

The hearing is scheduled for this Wednesday, August 15, according to a letter to Bisbee from Administrative Hearing Officer Larry Carroll.

Carroll was away and could not be reached by press time.

Support welcomed

Bisbee is encouraging attendance at the hearing by supporters and told the *Bay Area Reporter*, "I expect a full house." He said the cabaret is a "seven-day gay bar and weekday restaurant."

The hearing notice draws on a series of po-

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Robert Noel talks to the B.A.R.

Suspect charged in fatal dog mauling discusses lawsuit, life in jail

by Ed Walsh

© Bay Area Reporter

Robert Noel thought he dodged a bullet.

On Friday, July 27, he returned to his home for the past four months, the San Francisco County jail, and was told that the wrongful death lawsuit brought against him by Sharon Smith had been thrown out of court. The source was a fellow inmate who had been working in the laundry room when he heard the news on TV.

"I don't know whether it was in the broadcasting of the report or whether it was in the perceiving of the report that the wires got crossed," Noel told the *Bay Area Reporter* in a jailhouse interview the following day. "But that was the first time I heard the judge made any sort of decision. And then at 4 o-

clock they put the TV on here. I asked the deputy to put it on so we could watch the news and saw what the decision was from Channel 4."

The decision made headlines across the country as a landmark victory for the rights of gay couples. San Francisco Superior Court Judge A. James Robertson allowed Smith, the partner of dog mauling victim Diane Whipple, to proceed with her wrongful death lawsuit against Noel, 60, and his wife, Marjorie Knoller, 46, the keepers of the two dogs involved in the deadly attack. The judge agreed with Smith's attorney that the current state law barring unmarried couples from suing for wrongful death violated the equal protection provisions of the California Constitution because it's not legal for same-sex couples to marry.

"I think Robertson has created a lot of problems that he hasn't anticipated," said Noel. "For example, if you define spouse just in terms of a same-sex couple who are committed, what does that do to the related definitions of spouse in the probate court that provide for intestate succession? Because the wrongful death relies primarily on the probate code for its definitions for who can maintain wrongful death actions."

Intestate succession is the legal term for the way the courts divide property when someone dies without leaving a will.

"I think he would have been on much sounder legal ground if he had taken the position that a same-sex couple that is registered as domestic partners under the provisions of Section 297 of the family code could maintain that action," said Noel. "There you got a clear statement by both partners of the relationship as to their intention and it's a matter of public record. But just to say because two people are living together, they may be committed to one another, therefore they're spouses, I think [is wrong]."

Noel said that he and Knoller strongly support gay rights and he supports the pas-



Robert Noel shown in jail on July 28.

sage of AB25, the bill introduced by Assemblywoman Carole Migden (D-San Francisco) that would give gay couples comparable rights in civil cases.

"I have no problems with the Legislature amending the law, the wrongful death statute, to include registered domestic partners," Noel said, "because I think then you avoid all the other problems you might have when you define who counts in intestate succession in the probate code."

Noel told the *B.A.R.* he was confident the ruling would be overturned on appeal and he believes Robertson's decision may be politically motivated.

"It may just be politically expedient for

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FIRST OF TWO SECTIONS



Alberto Cervantes, left, and Juan Loera kiss outside the Bench & Bar.

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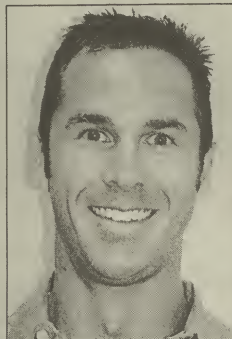
Proposed Halloween parade given cold shoulder by Castro merchants

by Cynthia Laird

Concern about drawing even more people to the already overflowing "unofficial" Halloween festivities in the Castro has led residents and merchant groups to come out strongly against a proposed Halloween parade that would take place in the area.

At last Thursday's meeting of the Merchants of Upper Market and Castro, members voted unanimously to oppose the plan as presented by Jim Lightsey of the New Heritage Foundation. Lightsey's group, which produces the popular Hell Ball event, had proposed a "March of Light" parade on Halloween that would start at the LGBT Community Center, continue to Market and Castro, and then loop back along Market before ending at Church Street. It was the route more than anything else that had local merchants seeing red.

For years, the Castro District has been the site of a massive unofficial Halloween party. Merchants long ago stopped officially sponsoring the event out of liability concerns, but thousands of partygoers continue to come to the Castro each year, forcing merchants to shell out money for added security, Porta Potties, and



New Heritage's Jim Lightsey

crowd control. The city's "official" Halloween event is held in Civic Center. That party started several years ago, but has never succeeded in drawing people away from the Castro as organizers had originally envisioned.

"We've tried Civic Center for a number of years and failed miserably," said San Francisco Police Captain Ron Roth, who oversees the Mission Station, which serves the Castro.

The thought of a third event — the Halloween parade — had both merchants and police concerned about safety issues and crowd

control. Roth said that police are already stretched to the limit trying to cover the Castro and Civic Center venues on Halloween. Covering a third venue would be nearly impossible, he added.

Lightsey told the Bay Area Reporter on Tuesday, August 7 that despite the overwhelming opposition expressed by members of three Castro-based organizations, the foundation was committed to trying to stage the event this year but was looking at alternative dates and alternative routes.

"We're committed to making this happen, but this year with running into so many complications, we're looking at alternatives," Lightsey said.

He did not rule out having some sort of parade or march on Halloween.

At the August 2 MUMC meeting, several speakers voiced their support for the idea of a parade featuring costumed participants, but they were adamant against the event coming to the Castro and expressed doubt that by looping around Market and heading to Church Street, the parade would succeed in drawing people away from the Castro District. Additionally, many business people asked, where would those people go when they got to the end of the

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COMMUNITY NEWS

High Gear closes up shop in the Castro

by Cynthia Laird

The small dressing rooms in the back of the store were empty, as were the racks that used to hold countless T-shirts and other clothing items. High Gear, the store at the corner of 19th and Castro streets, was in the midst of its "going out of business" sale last week, as owner Dean Holland and manager Peter Camacho got ready to call it quits after decades of business.

"I've been here nearly 20 years and want to take a break," Holland told the *Bay Area Reporter* Friday, August 3. He said that he wanted to emphasize that his landlords have been "really nice," and that the store's closing was in no way related to a rent increase or eviction.

"We've got really good landlords; it's nothing like that," he added.

High Gear opened in 1979, Holland explained, and he has owned it since 1983. Over the years, the styles may have



High Gear's Dean Holland, left, and Peter Camacho

changed, but the store at 600 Castro Street has kept its friendly, neighborhood charm.

Holland said that he expects to

finish selling off the few remaining items within the next few days, and then the doors will close for the last time. ▽

San Francisco Police adopt TG rights policy

by Katie Szymanski

Years of messy debate and protest over the San Francisco Police Department's treatment of transgender people may soon be on a smoother road, as training guidelines for officers and the procedures for enforcing them were approved within various city departments over the past week.

Last Wednesday, August 1, the Police Commission passed a policy recommendation drafted by the Office of Citizen's Complaints that outlines the areas where gender identity discrimination can be abated on the police force. Pushed through by Police Commissioner Dennis Herrera with the help of the OCC and the San Francisco Human Rights Commission, the policy directs the Police Department to train new recruits and experienced officers on matters like using the correct pronouns during questioning and exhibiting appropriate behavior, problems that tend to characterize the tone of current tensions between cops and transgender individuals.

"Situations that happen now include officers using incorrect pronouns and asking transgenderers for their 'real names,' or accidentally taking a wig off while trying to subdue somebody," according to openly transgender Human Rights Commissioner Theresa Sparks, who noted that being perceived as transgender still can translate into being perceived as a sex worker. "I've been stopped in the Tenderloin on the way to dinner. Stuff like this is intimidation and harassment and needs to stop."

Sparks said the adopted guidelines aim to address "the first 60 seconds" of contact between an officer and transgender person.

"Our attitude is if we can dif-

fuse the situation, we can keep violence from occurring," said Sparks. "If we can set a tone of respect up front, then a lot of what presently makes a lot of these relationships deteriorate can be avoided."

The policy invites personnel from the Human Rights Commission, Community United Against Violence, and other organizations to participate in the training of officers. It also standardizes police reports to allow for complete documentation for people who use various male and female aliases. At minimum, the policy will develop new police recruit screening methodology, standardized protocols, training for experienced officers, and enhanced sensitivity training at the police academy. A joint task force comprised of police and human rights commissioners, the SFPD, the OCC, and the relatively new Transgender Civil Rights Implementation Task Force will be formed immediately to oversee the policy's implementation. A resolution introduced by Supervisor Mark Leno on Monday, August 6, affirms the board's commitment to making sure the policy is implemented promptly.

"The joint task force will help to develop specific language to further the implementation process, and the Board of Supervisors will sort of be looking over the Police Department's shoulder and making sure it's all moving forward," according to Sparks, who credits Herrera with driving the new policy through the police commission.

"Dennis really took the bull by the horns here," she said.

Herrera, originally confronted almost two years ago at a Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club event with statistics and stories of transgender abuse by police, said he pledged to do something about the situation and is glad that there

was finally some movement on the issue. Although the policy had been in the works for a while, recent developments – including a Pride Parade protest of the SFPD contingent by the group TransAction, and a report issued by CNAV showing that half of all anti-transgender hate crimes continue to be committed by police – helped to get the issue some attention.

"It was much needed and long overdue, and it really represents some collaborative team work," Herrera, a candidate for city attorney, told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "I'm happy with it. It's a real positive step and hopefully can build credibility and good will among all those concerned."

Implementation should occur within the next 120 days at the latest, according to Sparks, who views the new policy as having a great effect on the lives of many people.

"The medical benefits we passed with the city were largely symbolic," said Sparks, referring to the Board of Supervisors' groundbreaking vote earlier this year to cover sexual reassignment therapies and surgeries for the handful of city employees who are transgender. "This Police Department policy is something that passed without a lot of fanfare, but with a practical impact that speaks volumes on the street." ▽

A public meeting to develop separate but related guidelines for transgender and gender-variant people within the county jail system will be held tonight (Thursday, August 9), from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the main building of the San Francisco Public Library, Grove Street entrance, in the Latino Hispanic Community Room (L58 A & B).

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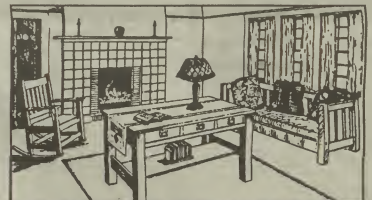
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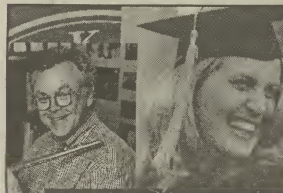
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Trail blazer

by Jane Warner

Bank of America, 501 Castro, July 26, 9:54 a.m.: A man approached a teller and asked for \$4,500 in traveler's checks. As the teller opened his drawer, the man handed him a note and in a whispered voice told him, "Give me everything you have." The teller noticed the round barrel of a gun pointing at him through a paper bag the man had wrapped around his hand. The teller complied and put the checks and a few thousand dollars in a small zipped bag the robber handed him. The teller also put a "bait and rat" pack of money in the bag. The suspect, described as a white male wearing a gray hooded sweatshirt, yellow T-shirt, and dark jeans, took the bag of money and fled out of the bank toward 18th Street. Police soon responded and through the "bait and rat" pack hidden in the bag of money, picked up a transmitter signal at Castro and Market. Police swarmed the area and found the suspect riding in the back of a cab, the backpack on the seat next to him emitting the tracking signal. The cab was surrounded, the armed robber was taken into custody, and officers recovered the bait money and the stolen cash that totaled \$6,405. The robber

was taken to Mission Station where it was discovered he had an outstanding federal warrant for his arrest.

Lady and the tramp

Dolores Park, July 26, 9:50 a.m.:

Two men were drinking in Dolores Park when they started to argue about how to treat women. One of the men pulled a knife from his pocket and stabbed the other man in the stomach. The injured man stumbled out of the park and collapsed on the sidewalk fronting the Dolores Park Cafe.

Several people called 911 and paramedics responded. The man was taken to San Francisco General Hospital where he was admitted for observation with a stab wound to his abdomen. Responding police searched the park for the suspect - described as white, 5 feet 5 inches, 175 pounds, wearing a blue T-shirt and blue jeans - but were unable to find him.

Wake up call

Haight and Market, August 3,

6:40 a.m.: A man walking on Haight Street near Market early Friday morning was suddenly jumped by three men who began to hit him several times. While he was trying to fend off the blows, one of the assailants took out a knife and tried to slash his face. Blocking the blows from the knife

with his arm, the man received several deep cuts. The suspects rifled through the victim's pockets, taking \$200 in cash, then fled westbound on Haight. The robbers are described as African American, in their 30s, wearing dark clothing. The man was taken to San Francisco General Hospital where he was treated for his injuries and released.

Poor condition

Vibrant Health, 2301 Market

Street, July 24, 12:25 p.m.: A man came into the health food store and started to look around. The owner of the store remembered him from a month before as being an alleged shoplifter. As the owner approached the man to ask him to leave, he saw him put five tubes of ginseng in his jacket pocket. The suspect turned to walk out of the store, and the owner quickly blocked his path, demanding her property back. The thief reached into his pocket and gave her one tube and then pushed her out of the way. The owner said she was going to call the police, at which point the suspect walked back into the store and pushed her again, stating, "No you're not, bitch." A passing citizen who saw the assault yelled to the suspect to stop and followed him, calling police on his cell phone. Responding officers found the suspect on the corner of Guerrero and 18th and arrested him without further incident. The 37-year-old man was taken to Mission Station and booked for strong-arm robbery. ▼

Gay man's death ruled accidental overdose

by Ed Walsh

Jon Redmon, a popular 28-year-old San Francisco gay man who died after spending the night at a popular South of Market nightclub, died of an accidental drug overdose, according to the San Francisco Medical Examiner's office.

Redmon had methamphetamine, amphetamine, gamma hydroxy butyric acid (GHB), and ketamine ("Special K") in his blood and urine, according to his autopsy report. No alcohol was found in his system.

San Francisco Medical Examiner Dr. Boyd Stephens told the *Bay Area Reporter* that although none of the drug dosages found were unusually high, the combination of all the drugs may have caused his death. Stephens noted

that any of the drugs by themselves also could have been fatal.

Redmon had a history of using so-called club drugs including methamphetamines, GHB, and ecstasy. Stephens said that Redmon's official cause of death is listed as "polypharmacy," meaning that he ingested three or more drugs. Stephens noted that Redmon, although found with four drugs in his system, may have taken three drugs because methamphetamine, or speed, metabolizes into amphetamine in the body.

Redmon's friends believe he was also drinking on the night of his death. Stephens said although no alcohol was found in Redmon's system, he could have been drinking earlier in the evening and the alcohol could have already worked its way out of his blood before he died.

Redmon was found dead at

around 10 a.m. on June 16 by his roommate. He was brought home early that morning by an acquaintance after he appeared to be suffering from an overdose, according to his roommate and Redmon's close friend, Eric Hall. Redmon had been attending the Launch venue at the King Street Garage.

Ironically, Hall said that Redmon signed a job offer for well-paying job with a great future the day before he died. According to his autopsy report, Redmon was in excellent physical condition and "appeared to be at or younger than his recorded age."

Hall told the B.A.R. he hoped that in some way, Redmon's death will cause some people to rethink the late-night club drug culture and encourage people to seek medical attention for others who appear to be suffering from an overdose. ▼

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Permit me this dance

by Joe Dignan

If you can dance in a bar, is it a dance bar?

Right now, the answer is yes, but legislation scheduled to go before the San Francisco Board of Supervisors this Monday, August 13, would blur that distinction.

It used to be, some years ago, that the only place for boys and girls to shake their booties in the Castro was at the now-defunct Phoenix. According to Terrance Alan, chairperson of the San Francisco Late Night Coalition, the owners of the Phoenix had what amounted to a permit to print money because they had the one, and the only, highly coveted "dance hall keeper's permit" in an area with the highest concentration of shaking booties in the West, or possibly the world.

Now, in the Castro, those permits are firmly held by the Cafe and Badlands, but Supervisor Chris Daly's legislation would exempt holders of either a "place of

entertainment" or "place of public assembly" permit from needing an additional dance permit. This would permit venues such as the Detour and the Bar on Castro to allow dancing.

"One of the most widely held misconceptions about this legislation is that it would create more dance clubs," said Alan. "Neighbors are up in arms about this, because they think it will create more noisy clubs, but that's simply not true. What if you're in a bar and a song you like comes on and you and some friends want to get up and do a dance? As it is now, the owner of the bar could get in serious trouble because you did that."

Alan said that the objective of the legislation is just to make sure that there is uniform enforcement of other laws and no harassment.

San Francisco police disagree. In a letter to members of the Board of Supervisors, Police Chief Fred H. Lau said that the dance hall keeper's permit process is one of the tools they have to make sure that premises are safe and appro-

priate for the neighborhood. Lau said that the process provides for public hearings before any permits are issued so that neighbors' concerns about noise and crowds are addressed.

"We've heard specifically from the hip-hop community that getting a permit for that is very different than if you're the Fairmont," said Bill Barnes, aide to Supervisor Daly. "Historically, there's always been police harassment of the LGBT community, although I certainly don't mean to say that that is the case today. It's a really duplicative permitting process. By streamlining the process, we are freeing up valuable resources in the Police Department for more important activities."

Whatever the rhetoric surrounding this contentious issue, because every venue which can legally house events for more than 50 people already has a public assembly permit and could allow dancing if the measure passes, look for some shake-ups in the bar scene around San Francisco. ▼

SF LGBT center losing interim director, gaining Hormel largesse

by David Fraser

As it moves toward opening in the fall, the San Francisco LGBT Community Center Project has announced a \$100,000 matching challenge grant from former Ambassador James C. Hormel.

"This wonderful new center will be an important facility for the city and will provide a special focal point for the LGBT community," Hormel said in a statement. "I encourage all San Franciscans to invest in the founding of this historic civic institution ... I'm convinced that the center will be an invaluable asset for improving the lives of all who use it."

Meanwhile, the center's board has begun a search for top officers, including a replacement for interim Executive Director Mike Marshall, who departed his post last week after a three-month contract extension. Marshall has turned over the reins to long-time LGBT activist Oren Slozberg.

"It's been a real joy and honor to be involved in this project," Marshall said. "I look forward to returning from a long vacation in September and participating in the planning of the opening of the center."

"It's incredibly generous ... to have a matching grant from some-

one with the stature of Ambassador Hormel," Marshall added.

Under the challenge grant, Hormel will match donations of \$1,000 to \$2,500—up to \$100,000—from new founders who pledge financial support by October 31. The grant program started last week.

Currently the center is also recruiting for directors of development; finance and operations; and information technology manager, among other top posts. A program director will also be sought.

Marshall told the *Bay Area Reporter* that the annual salary for the executive director post will be in the \$90,000 to \$120,000 range. Other high positions will pay around \$70,000 to \$90,000 per year based on experience.

The search committee includes board member Dana Van Gorder; Pat Martel, president of the CCP board of directors; Kate Kendall, executive director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights; Brian Cheu, executive director of Laverder Youth Recreation and Information Center; Felicia Park-Rogers, executive director of Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere; Scott Shafer, a program director for KQED-FM and founding president of the CCP board; Eddie Dobbins of Lesbians and Gays of African Descent for Democratic Action; Barbara French,

former board member and principal of Reputation Management; San Francisco City Treasurer Susan Leal; and Stacey Jackson of the city's transgender task force, who's employed by Verizon Wireless.

Once managers hire staffs, the executive director will be responsible for around 40 people and a budget of \$2.8 million, Marshall said.

Ultimately, the center is expected to generate \$600,000 to \$800,000 annually from renting out offices to 23 LGBT organizations and space to various groups.

As to funding capital, Marshall said the center project has raised about \$13.4 million. "We have about \$1.9 million to go," he said.

Capital funding includes six months of operations. When it's up and running, the center will operate 101 hours a week. Marshall said that including vacation time, the operation will require three shifts, hence the staffing target of around 40.

At the moment, Marshall said, it looks like the "soft opening" will take place in mid- to late-October, with a grand opening set for mid-November. "We're about 82 percent done" on the 40,000 square foot facility, he said.

For contributions, information, or tours, visit www.sfgaycenter.org or phone Ms. Ian Myszen-ski at (415) 437-2257. ▼

SF's CityServices Web site wins award

by Cynthia Laird

San Francisco's e-government Web site, CityServices, last week was named one of the top 50 e-government projects nationwide by civic.com, a leading digital government publication.

CityServices, initiated two years ago by San Francisco Treasurer Susan Leal, enables users to conduct a wide range of financial transactions online. These include obtaining property tax information and making payments, business tax filings, business registration renewals, fictitious business name searches, ordering certified birth

and death certificates, and applying for electrical and plumbing permits. The Web site (www.cityservices.sfgov.org) is a self-funding model that does not use tax dollars to subsidize operations.

"We're very honored that our staff was recognized for their online initiative," Leal told the B.A.R.

She added that feedback from customers has been positive. "CityServices has advanced the level of assistance and convenience that we can provide to the citizens of San Francisco," she said.

The Web site was developed by the treasurer's office in collaboration with other city departments, including the Department of

Telecommunications and Information Services. The Web site allows customers to conduct business 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

"The success of these applications has paved the way for more interactive services to become available to the public in the near future," said Liza Lowery, executive director of DTIS.

Leal agreed, adding that the next step for CityServices would be a program to allow people to pay parking tickets online.

The civic.com e-government Web site competition was judged by a panel of government officials, nonprofit professionals, and private sector leaders. ▼

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Berkeley's Boy Scout blowup

The flap this week over the city of Berkeley's involvement in hosting Boy Scouts from its sister city in Japan, Sakai, has once again shown the rift between Mayor Shirley Dean and gay City Council member Kriss Worthington.

When Worthington first learned of the plan to have a ceremony in City Hall to honor the Boy Scout visitors from overseas, he asked that it be moved since the Boy Scouts of America discriminate against gay troop leaders and the Japanese Scouts were being hosted by their American counterparts. (The Japanese Boy Scouts, in stark contrast to the U.S. organization, have no policy on gays.) Dean overreacted and announced that the ceremony would be moved to a secret location outside of the city; she said it was an effort to spare the Japanese guests any of those unpleasant demonstrations for which Berkeley is so well-known.

Unfortunately, Dean's decision — which local Boy Scout officials failed to explain to their Japanese guests — created a furor among many heterosexuals. What Dean should have done was hold the event in City Hall as scheduled and faced the possible informational picket that Worthington had thought of organizing; that would have given the Japanese visitors a quick lesson in American democracy in action and drawn attention to the Boy Scouts' anti-gay policies. Now, Dean and Worthington are both being assailed by callers to talk radio programs and letter writers to a daily newspaper over something the city of Berkeley opposes: the Boy Scouts of America's ban on gay troop leaders. Worthington doesn't favor a ban on the Boy Scouts merely being present on city property, but he said that the now-canceled reception in City Hall would have warranted what he termed "an educational exercise."

Of course, the larger issue is the national Boy Scouts policy and until that is changed those involved in scouting will have to continue to address the matter, whether they want to or not. The Boy Scouts' homophobia did not fade quietly into the back-

ground following last summer's Supreme Court ruling nor will it become less of an issue as time goes on. The Boy Scouts' blatant discrimination has galvanized gay organizations and individuals across the country, resulting in a decrease in revenue from numerous corporate supporters and declining membership in light of its embrace of bigotry.

Some Scout councils, such as one in the Boston area, have adopted sort of a "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy in an effort to be inclusive. We're certain that this exception doesn't sit well with national Scout officials and suspect that the Boston council will soon be forced to capitulate.

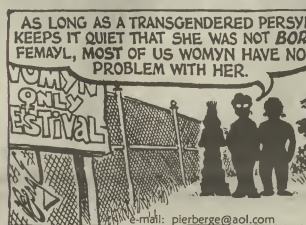
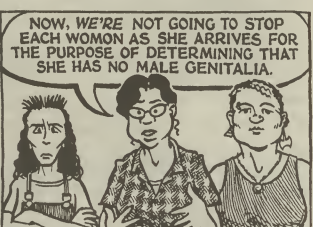
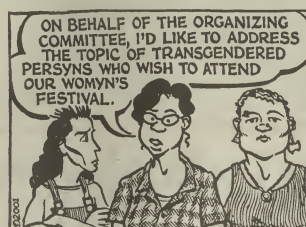
Scouting groups in Berkeley have taken a stand against the Boy Scouts' ban on gay troop leaders. Some parents involved in this

latest dust-up in Berkeley insist that they are not part of the problem, but as long as they are involved in the Boy Scouts of America and the organization enforces its anti-gay stance, they are, indeed, part of the problem.

Numbers are part of what makes an organization successful. If the number of Boy Scouts continues to decline, perhaps that would lead to the national Boy Scouts re-examining its discriminatory policy. Similarly, if corporations and foundations concerned with ending discrimination continue to withhold donations from the Scouts, that, too, sends a strong message to headquarters. If parents and kids involved in scouting really want to take a stand, it would be more courageous for them to leave the Boy Scouts and become affiliated with one of the many other youth organizations that does not discriminate against gays. ▼



Editorial



Nothing wrong with revisiting issues once rejected by voters

by Robert Haaland and Tommi Avicolli Mecca

The idea that because the voters rejected a certain measure the issue should never again be tackled by our legislators is absurd, to say the least. It's an argument that doesn't bode well for queer rights or any other human rights issue ever rejected by the voters.

Yes, San Francisco voters rejected Proposition N because of an intentionally misleading campaign financed by Realtors, but does that mean that the issue of regulating tenancies-in-common should never again be addressed by the Board of Supervisors?

If that's the case, then since voters rejected gay marriage last year, our state Legislature should never consider more rights for domestic partners. We trust that those who believe in "the will of the voters" will campaign against any future attempts to further domestic partners rights in California. Similarly, the state must never grant rights for immigrants to access social services (because of Proposition 187) or for colleges to implement affirmative action policies (outlawed by Proposition 209).

To assert this supposed "will of the voters" über alles is to reject the history of social change in this country. Social change — especially in the area of civil rights — has often been gained by the repeated pushing of ideas that were originally rejected by lawmakers and voters. Take gay rights. How many times have simple civil rights laws for queers been flatly rejected by referendum? Should queers in those municipalities stop pressing for their rights in order to honor the "will of the voters?"

Just because voters reject a certain way of addressing an issue does not mean they are rejecting the issue entirely. If a measure came along that proposed to include queers in the marriage law, we're sure that readers of this newspaper would support it and reject the "will of the voters" argument of opponents.

In the same vein, Supervisor Jake McGoldrick's recent TIC legislation is vastly different than Proposition N. It is a watered-down version of former Supervisor Sue Bierman's TIC bill.

The supervisors did not overstep their authority in taking up this issue again. They saw an injustice and addressed it, as they should have. They saw that Proposition N was not acceptable to the

voters and they compromised and reshaped a bill that dealt with what has always been the motivation behind Bierman's law and Proposition N: stopping evictions. Seniors, low-income folks, people with AIDS, people of color, immigrants, and others are being thrown to the gutter by profiteering real estate agents who wanted to make big bucks offering their apartments as TICs. Not to address this injustice would have violated the contract the supervisors have with the voters who put them in office.

We elected this board because we were fed up with unresponsive politicians who sat around and watched silently as people were being displaced, forced out of their homes, and made homeless. Those politicians did nothing as eviction profiteers and greedy developers turned our city into a city of the rich, a city that was losing its ethnic

and cultural diversity, a city without artists.

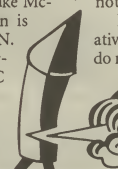
The eight supervisors who voted for this legislation showed a courage that should be applauded. They stood up to big money to say "No more!" to the eviction of the most vulnerable among us. They said that while home ownership is a good thing, gaining it on the backs of the elderly and the poor is not.

It wasn't easy. Though the moral imperative was clear, the pressure to run away and do nothing — as their predecessors had done — was overwhelming.

That these eight supervisors have been bashed in the press recently not only for the TIC vote but for other things as well leads us to believe that the real agenda with these papers (especially the *San Francisco Chronicle* and *San Francisco Examiner*) is the repeal of district elections. The forces of downtown money are already reportedly threatening to pursue a repeal via referendum, and we're sure they'll use the recent TIC vote as a way of attempting to discredit district elections and those elected through it.

Instead of seeing these eight supes as rejecting the "will of the voters," we see them as exhibiting the guts and integrity to fight for the right thing, despite the consequences to their own political lives. It is a good sign that this board will not do business as usual when it comes to social justice issues, such as tenant rights. ▼

Robert Haaland and Tommi Avicolli Mecca are both tenant activists in San Francisco.



Guest Opinion

LETTERS

Scouting should be for all

Did anyone else get a solicitation for donations from the Boy Scouts of American Chapter in San Leandro last week? Here is the reply I sent:

"Thank you for the offer to help a Scout continue his character building." However, I cannot contribute to your organization in good consciousness at a time when it continues to teach our American boys intolerance, hate, and irrational fear.

"You ask if I long for a return to solid traditional values 'where people treat each other with decency and kindness,' but your organization has shown none of those moral values in recent years. Your exclusionary policy is something that no true proud American can afford to support. Bigotry and discrimination are not 'rooted in love and respect for God and Country.'"

"Please resubmit this donation request to me again when such a shameful policy has been changed. I will then be willing to support the Boy Scouts Of America. Until then, I will be praying to your God to forgive you for your shame and the pain you are causing to your boys. Let me know when scouting is really for all."

Denis Richards
San Francisco

It's only politics

I had to laugh reading Michael Colbruno quoted in the B.A.R. as saying, "For queers to trash queers is unconscionable." (He was defending Carole Migden in her dispute with the Alice B. Toklas club.) ["Alice's endorsement process sparks cat fight," July 19.] Isn't Carole Migden the one the Chronicle always turns to to get a quote belittling gay candidates for office? And isn't Alice the club that took over \$100,000 of straight money to run a landmark gay TV ad, which was not for, but against, a gay candidate? Maybe Michael Colbruno should take himself (and the whole process) a little less seriously. After all, it's only politics.

Steve Karpa
San Francisco

Respect for men loving men

Wouldn't we all be better off if men had more opportunities to love one another?

I believe it's time we gay men take back control of and responsibility for our sex and love lives. AIDS as a "crisis" is over. It is now an ongoing tragedy. And now, as throughout history, we still need to manage our sex and love lives, to maintain our health, and to strengthen our community. Love has risks - emotional, spiritual, physical - and if we play the field, we have to know what we are doing.

The policies of the San Francisco Department of Public Health make it difficult for us to practice safe sex. We are prohibited from having private spaces in safe public places. Why? Because DPH believes that it is wise to mandate exhibitionism, so that our sex can be monitored. How ridiculous! This policy only increases the risk to our health rather than promoting and protecting it. It diminishes individual responsibility and mandates social control.

In practice, the very policies being imposed upon us are restricting our abilities to really protect ourselves. We don't have control over lighting and there are often inadequate facilities to maintain hygiene. Bathhouses come with showers, steam rooms, saunas, exercise facilities, food, and TV lounge areas. Clean sheets and condoms are available. In private rooms we control the lighting and create the intimacy desired. Just like most folks, we expect freedom from intrusion for the polyamorous connections that nurture us and our society. In the DPH's attempt to protect us, they are exposing us to more risks. Brothers, don't be taken in by their lack of understanding. We deserve private spaces in safe public places. It is a simple matter of respect. I don't need insidious public health policy attempting to protect me from diseases that only I can protect myself from. None of us do.

Unless we give ourselves the respect we deserve, we will be hard pressed to build a community of men who have enough self-respect to maintain healthy sex and love lives.

Queers take back control of and responsibility for the love we share with each other and be especially wary of the decision-makers in the AIDS bureaucracy. Let's create more opportunities to love one another while promoting safe, healthy choices. Clearly, this policy of permitting only exhibitionism is counterproductive - it strips us of our dignity and needs to be changed.

Richard Carrazza
San Francisco

Names Project chapter weighs in

As the last occupant of the property at 2362 Market Street and the representative of the Names Project and the AIDS Memorial Quilt in the Bay Area, the Names Project Bay Area Chapter would like to make a few remarks regarding the bench in front of our former site ["Limited seating," July 12].

We want to clarify that the chapter was not involved in planning, installation, or maintenance of the bench.

However, we embraced the concept of having an installation commemorating the place where the quilt had its first home. The bench was donated to the Names Project Foundation, the memorial plaque was purchased by the city of San Francisco, and the installation was completed by the city. Initially, we tried to mediate our neighbor's grievances regarding its placement, even after we left the site on 2362 Market Street.

The Names Project Bay Area Chapter has to focus its energy on its original mission to use the AIDS Memorial Quilt to help bring an end to AIDS.

Dolores L. Thompson, Michael W. Weaver,
and Michael W. Henschel, Board Members
The Names Project Bay Area Chapter

Suggestion for Cleve Jones

Cleve Jones's letter [Mailstrom, July 26] shows that he only cares for people after they are dead. To call people "unwelcome, unwashed, and unemployed invaders" and "vexing problems" because they have come into circumstances that have ended them out on the streets is pure hate, not unlike the hatred the Nazis propagated.

As a dyke who had to wait two and a half years after becoming disabled before the government approved my disability, I know that sometimes it is impossible to keep a roof over one's head, especially with rents as high as they are in the Bay Area. Even now, with a monthly disability check, I find it impossible to pay monthly bills without outside help. Who would have ever thought I would be better off having to leave my Castro District home to live in conservative Orange County? But judging by the classist and hateful attitudes of Cleve Jones and David Bach, I now feel I am better off in exile behind the "Orange Curtain."

I have one suggestion for Cleve Jones: instead of spending all his energy on people who are already dead, why doesn't he use that energy to help those who are still alive but suffering? Helping those in need will not only improve their lives, but it will improve his, as he won't have to walk around our "unwelcome, unwashed, and unemployed" bodies when he traipses through the only homes we have.

Of course, Cleve would probably rather have us "unwelcome, unwashed, and unemployed" disabled people in concentration camps, forced to make the products he consumes. How much longer will it be before Cleve Jones starts excluding poor and homeless people with AIDS from having panels on the AIDS quilt, too?

Mercedes Luna
Orange County, California

Sorrow and disgust

I am writing to express my total sorrow and disgust for Cleve Jones's letter regarding the removal of the AIDS quilt's memorial bench from Market Street [Mailstrom, July 26].

For a person who has worked so long with people suffering and in pain from AIDS, it is nothing short of amazing how little empathy and compassion he shows for the plight of the homeless in your great city.

I doubt that when this memorial bench was installed that it was the intent that only healthy, working, tax-paying residents of San Francisco would be allowed to use it. I can only say that your city is a better place to live now that the arrogant Cleve Jones has moved away.

William B. Thompson
Atlanta, Georgia

'Obviously heartless'

The letter by Cleve Jones [Mailstrom, July 26] is disturbing and anti-human, from an obviously heartless soul, especially the line "one man's courageous stand against those unwelcome, unwashed, and unemployed invaders of the Castro Street retail district." This is not courage, but cowardice. Let's call it what it is.

Barbara Raisbeck
Eugene, Oregon

[Editor's note: Cleve Jones suggests some readers might benefit from reading Funk & Wagnall's Standard College Dictionary definition of irony: "a sarcastic or humorous manner of discourse in which what is literally said is meant to express its opposite."]

Get that 'gay spirit'

In regards to Andrew J. Betancourt's letter [Mailstrom, July 26]. What some people call "perpetual boopsification," I prefer to call "gay spirit."

Carlos Chavarin
San Francisco

Improvement needed

I would like to respond to Cynthia Laird's July 26 article, "Let mudslinging begin," regarding the comments made by Harry Britt at his campaign kickoff for state Assembly against Supervisor Mark Lenos. Her

next page ►

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Mailstrom

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reporting is at best inadequate and at worst displays the same characteristic she seems to deplore.

I was at the event and I thought Harry Britt's "stinging attack" on Leno's campaign was directed not at Leno personally but toward the man closely involved in his campaign, Robert Barnes. It was he whom Britt said he was angry with and I am sure I and many others feel the same way. Barnes's involvement in city politics has brought elections and their campaigns to an all time low for this city, using sleazy tactics and unlimited money to disparage his opponents and cloud the real issues.

I'll be curious as to how the B.A.R. will cover this important election. Let's hope the reporting will be unbiased and accurate and an improvement on Laird's article.

Tom H. Ramirez
San Francisco

Stop dividing community

I am extremely disappointed, but on the other hand not surprised at your publication's obvious bias in covering the kickoff campaign of Harry Britt for the 13th District Assembly seat. It is clear from the article by Cynthia Laird and by the ranting of Wayne Friday every week that the B.A.R. is coming out of the gate attacking Britt. Not only does this fly in the face of journalistic integrity, it is a disservice to the LGBT community for the B.A.R. to discredit someone who has done amazing work for the community for years.

On behalf of many gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender San Francisco residents, I call on the B.A.R. to stop dividing our community. We are tired of Robert Barnes's tactics of smear and slam and are equally tired of your rag being the vehicle for such tactics. Harry Britt has done much for our community, helping unite us after a devastating loss, carrying on — a reluctant but effective leader — when Harvey Milk was assassinated. Certainly there are those, including those involved in your very publication, who would have liked to take that position on themselves. It didn't work out that way and fortunately for our community, Britt was appointed and led us forward. Britt has helped motivate many of us who are at the forefront of important issues today. It is unacceptable for the B.A.R., claiming to be a voice for the gay, lesbian, and transgender community to be so obvious in your attempts to vilify this historic figure.

I dare the B.A.R. to take on the challenge posed by Britt at his kickoff (interestingly missing from your reporter's spin on the event) to demand accountability when political consultants like Barnes malign our hard-working gay officials like Tom Ammiano and Carol [sic] Migden. You should demand it of Barnes and you should even more, demand it of your own publication.

Or, the B.A.R. can continue to behave in the unprincipled way reflected in the latest coverage of this Assembly race. It does a disservice to everyone involved. It is your choice, and I guess we will see how you choose to go forward.

Debra Walker
San Francisco

Personal observations

What follows are purely personal observations about two words, "queer" and "geezer," that are contentious in the gay community, and about the claim that an analogy may be drawn between the two.

For me, "queer" issued from the mouth of a bigot is at least an honest word in that the user's intent to wound and demean is unequivocal. Used in this context, "queer" has a meaning of feeling sexual and emotional attraction to one's own sex. I can't take exception to that meaning for it certainly applies to me. That there is something shameful about feeling such sexual and emotional attraction is an assumption of the bigot implicit in the usage, and if his intention is fulfilled and I am wounded and demeaned by "queer," this assumption is validated. Thus, though anger may be felt over the bigot's intention, I feel none toward the word itself and my instinctive response is equally unequivocal: "You bet your sweet ass I'm queer, you dumb bastard."

For me, "geezer," along with designations such as "codger" and "old timer," are not analogous to "queer" in that they may pass as affectionate, endearing terms while, no doubt often unconsciously, they patronize by imputing a certain quaintness to the elderly that diminishes the need to take them seriously. Such expressions do not rise to the same level of mean honesty as "queer" for in their artful fuzziness they allow disingenuous denials. Think Dame Edna, her dissembling disclaimer: "I say that lovingly, possums."

Finally, I believe these terms as well as "troll" not only reflect but contribute to many young gay men's fear of aging, while reinforcing stereotypical ageist attitudes and maintaining the divide between young men who love men and their elders who share in that love.

Stan Farwig
Concord, California

Flowery praise is too late

Thanks to all for all the thoughtful comments regarding the tragic passing of our dear friend Jon Redmon. I think it is an important reminder that, the time to honor people is while they are alive. All the flowery praise, while heartfelt, is too little, too late, and merely serves to honor ourselves. How are we honoring the people in our lives right here, right now?

Eric Hall
San Francisco

AIDS Rider speaks

[The following letter was sent to Jim Provenzano]
Thanks for your AIDS Ride articles (published in May and June 1999). I only wish I'd read them a year ago.

I recently finished the California AIDS Ride 8, and was really turned off by the commercialism of the affair. Dan Pallotta's book, *When Your Moment Comes*, was on sale at camp in its own separate cart. His CD of songs for his lover (who ironically committed suicide two years ago) was on sale in the camp store. I was most turned off by a speech he gave on what was deemed "Remembrance Night" in Ventura. He waxed poetic about his life and relationships (most distastefully, his relationship with almighty God) for over 45 minutes. He preached about human potential, professed that we are "dreaming creatures," and at one point even played his arms back in a "Pieta" pose, gazed into the heavens and exclaimed (ostensibly to God), "Why are we here?" A rhetorical question, but the answer that struck me was, "To stuff Dan Pallotta's wallet and buttress his ego."

I was a first-time rider, and many people complained that it was the most commercial and least safe CAR ever. My girlfriend is doing the Avon 3-day this October, and then we will be done with PTW [Pallotta TeamWorks] events. I can't believe I put my heart and soul into something for eight months, only to realize that all my faint misgivings about the event being an upper middle-class junket for self-help addicts (not to mention "Forum" proselytes) were actualized in the event.

I am grateful, however, for the people I trained with in Los Angeles — namely the "Chain Gang" and "Shifting Gears" groups who embodied true kindness and activism — not the glossy packaged lifestyle that PTW sells. Their hearts were in the right place, even if not all of their dollars ended up in the right place. I stuck with them on the ride, and I got home safely.

I produced a play in 1998 which benefited Homestead Hospice and Shelter in Los Angeles. Homestead cares for PWAs who are also drug-addicted, many of whom have been homeless. It took a year of my life, and yielded a mere \$500 for the beneficiary. From an accounting standpoint it was a dismal failure, as the overhead was 10 times the final donation to the beneficiary. But on some levels, I am more proud of that \$500 than of the \$3,400 I raised for the AIDS Ride. It went to an organization that does great work and really needed the money. Also, I didn't charge a "production fee" nor take a salary for the year I spent on the project. I had to work part-time and starve my way through it. Unlike cycling, the play, *Lonely Planet* by Steven Dietz, dealt with the issue of AIDS, and hopefully raised an acute awareness for the few people who saw it.

I did the AIDS Ride because I wanted to exceed what I'd done on the play, and because the ride was something I wasn't sure I could accomplish. Lofty goals, but now I feel a little cheated. I accomplished what I set out to do, but the hidden cost of it was my circumspection to fundraisers like this in the future. It's hard from this perspective to feel like there's anything I can do to make a real difference.

My sister and my nephew both have advanced AIDS. Their lives are endlessly painful and complicated and bureaucratic. The AIDS Ride, difficult as it was, is easy compared with dealing with the disease day after day, year after year, and watching my nephew being tube-fed because he can't hold solid food (or his meds) down. From now on, my activism stays home with them.

Jonathan Winn
CAR 8 Rider 5897
Los Angeles, California

Thanks for support

New Leaf applauds the Board of Supervisors for authorizing an add-back of \$75,000 for New Leaf's mental health services. Without this funding we would have faced cutbacks in service at a time when demand for our services continues to exceed our capacity. We especially appreciate the leadership of Supervisor Mark Leno in spearheading this add-back for the third year in a row. The funds are critical for non-profits like New Leaf, because long-standing contracts with the city remain at level funding year after year, making it more difficult to pay for increases in rent, salaries, and utilities. These funds will allow us to continue to provide critical counseling and substance abuse services. It's heartening to see our supervisors focusing their add-back dollars to meet the mental health needs of the LGBT community.

Joseph Neisen, Ph.D., Executive Director
New Leaf: Services For Our Community

POLITICS

City attorney race is off and running

by Wayne Friday

While City Treasurer **Susan Leal** looks to be headed for an easy reelection this November – to date no candidate of significance has filed against her – the race to replace retiring City Attorney **Louise Renne** will be a crowded and likely hard-fought one.

According to campaign finance reports filed last week, Police Commissioner **Dennis Herrera**, a



Dennis Herrera

former deputy city attorney who's now a partner in a downtown law firm, and **Neil Eisenberg**, who lost a race to Renne four years ago, each have raised around \$80,000 – with a \$500 per person limit – and neither should have trouble reaching the maximum allowed in the race, which is \$175,000.

Herrera, an expert on maritime law, also is a former official in the Clinton administration. He is considered center/left on the political map, and has probably emerged as the current front-runner in the race. Herrera was recently endorsed by the powerful Police Officers Association and coincidentally, has earned the "enthusiastic" personal endorsement of **Mary Dunlap**, the director of the Office of Citizen's Complaints. He also has the endorsements of Assemblywoman **Carole Migden**, Supervisor **Mark Leno**, Community College Board members **Lawrence Wong** and **Natalie Berg**, and retiring City Attorney Renne.

Eisenberg, an attorney in private practice, has a long history with the Democratic Party and is endorsed by former Supervisor **Angela Alioto**, and former District Attorney **Arlo Smith**.

The other three candidates in the November 6 race are **Jim Lazarus**, the former state director for U.S. Senator **Dianne Feinstein**; land use attorney **Steve Williams**; and former Redevelopment Agency director **Jim Morales**. Williams has the endorsements of Supervisors **Leland Yee**, **Aaron Peskin**, and **Jake McGoldrick**, and had been previously endorsed by Board President **Tom Ammiano**, who recently told the *Bay Area Reporter* that he was switching his endorsement to Morales. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes on November 6 – which is likely – a runoff election will be held between the two top contenders on December 11; all five candidates are Democrats in this nonpartisan contest.

The 13th Assembly District race

What started out as a promised "civil" race between two respected gay leaders, Supervisor **Mark Leno**

and former Supervisor **Harry Britt**, for the Democratic nomination for the 13th Assembly District seat is already becoming a bit heated. In a recent *Independent* column, Britt was quoted again attacking one of Leno's team, consultant **Robert Barnes**, saying, "I guess the reason Leno hired the guy (Barnes) is the same reason everybody does – that he launders money for **Willie Brown**."

Britt and his campaign handlers should realize that if they choose to go down this road it becomes only fair game to point out who hosted and attended Britt's

very first campaign finance meeting. Further, public records show that a financial report filed by one of Britt's top supporters show her reporting a \$20,000 contribution from Philip Morris, which begs the question as to how much of that money is being "laundered" (filtered?) down to the Britt campaign.

Stay tuned to this one, folks; the fun is starting already and the election isn't until next March.

Politics and people

Nowhere is politics more interesting than in New York City; I lived there years ago and I can tell you it's the greatest political city in the country. And you wanna talk strange politics? Case in point: the *New York Times* recently carried a feature story about NYC Mayor **Rudy Giuliani**, saying that since his estranged wife had him tossed from the mayor's official residence, Gracie Mansion, (because he reportedly was sneaking his girlfriend in from time to time behind his wife's back) Giuliani "has for the past two months been coming home to one of the happiest marriages in New York." How's that, you ask? Seems the good (Republican) mayor has moved in with two longtime friends of his – two openly gay men, **Howard Koeppel** and his partner **Mark Hsiao**, who have been together 10 years (and are registered with the city as domestic partners). The *Times* noted that "in happier times for the Giuliani marriage, the two men double-dated often with the mayor and his wife, and always on New Year's Eve." The mayor, a moderate Republican and former nationally-known tough federal prosecutor, has long been a supporter of gay rights, and both he and his actress-TV journalist wife **Donna Hanover** reportedly have many gay and lesbian friends; as Mr. Koeppel told the *Times*, "He's our friend, both of them are; the mayor simply doesn't have any hang-ups socially." While Giuliani doesn't give interviews about his temporary living arrangements, he is given high marks by the tough NYC tabloids and, as one of Manhattan's best-known gossip journalists, **Cindy Adams**, put it in her *New York Daily News* column: "This is just another passing 'only in New York' anecdote, and besides, what are true friends for?"

There was first lady **Laura Bush** whining publicly recently that the news media is "overzealously" covering those wild twin daughters of hers, crying that the "profit-driven coverage" of daugh-

ters **Barbara** and **Jenna** should be stopped and the two "should be totally left alone." Sorry, Laura, it doesn't work that way; if the twins are going to act like the rich, pampered, spoiled kids that they obviously are (particularly in public), then they're fair game, so get used to it mom, or tell them to leave the fake IDs at home.

Former Vice President **Al Gore** (you remember, the guy who received a half million votes more than **George W. Bush**?) says he is ready to ease back into the world of American politics by helping operatives for elections this fall in New York, New Jersey, and Virginia. Gore, who was shown with a beard in a photo that ran last week in several media outlets, then plans to form a political action committee to help congressional

Democratic candidates in the 2002 elections. Longtime Gore partisans in Congress said that the former veep's planned activities do not necessarily commit him to running for president in 2004, although most expect him to do so. Both New Jersey and Virginia currently have GOP governors but Democrats are given a chance to take both contests in November; Gore's help in the two states would bode well for his attempt to rebuild a 2004 presidential run.

Don't invite East Bay Congresswoman **Ellen Tauscher** (D-10th District) and state Senate President Pro Tem **John Burton** (D-San Francisco) to the same cocktail party. Tauscher is reportedly plenty pissed at Burton, claiming that the still-secret redistricting plan by the Democrats would put her in a new district that she considers less voter-friendly, and that would stretch from Livermore to Solano County, possibly costing her contributor-rich Democratic constituents. Tauscher says that Burton is doing it in retaliation for her supporting Representative **Steny Hoyer** (D-Maryland) for Democratic Party House whip, the No. 2 leadership position in the House, over fellow Californian Representative **Nancy Pelosi** (D-San Francisco), a longtime friend and political ally of Burton's. Democrats plan to draw lines under the reapportionment that will protect their 32 California House seats and the Republicans' 20 seats while still meeting legal requirements that so-called communities of interest be preserved, and Burton plays a huge part in determining what the districts will look like. A new 53rd House seat allocated to the state because of population shifts in the 2000 census is expected to be drawn for a Democratic candidate by the Democratic-controlled Legislature.

Reports out of both Washington, D.C., and Modesto have it that embattled Congressman **Gary Condit** is seriously considering resigning before the end of his term, regardless of the outcome of the search for missing intern **Chandra Levy**. Democratic Party leaders in California are said to be quickly looking for a credible candidate they can put forth in a special election if, as expected, Condit does

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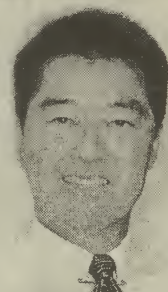
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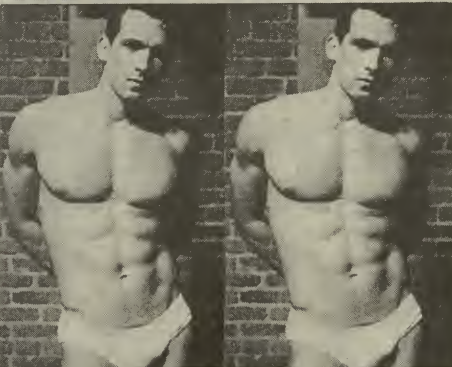
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Inching along

by Gwendolyn Ann Smith

I knew I was going to enjoy the film *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*. I didn't know I would be moved to write a column about it.

You see, one of my hobbies is collecting transgender-related music, and I've built a modest collection of tunes. Sure, there's Aerosmith's "Dude (Looks Like A Lady)" and the Kink's "Lola," but the collection is broader than that. There are songs dating back to the beginning of the last century (The Savoy Havana Band's "Masculine Women, Feminine Men," for one) and tracks from many other countries. More than that, I've taken to collecting music created by transgendered performers. If anything, I've learned that there are transgendered musicians working in all styles of music, from dance, punk, and electronica, to classical, folk, and funk. There is even a former "Hair Metal" singer who has since come out as transsexual.

This odd hobby of mine started some time back, while exploring the history of glam rock and early punk in the 1970s, especially at Max's Kansas City, a club once located in New York City. Max's was not only where any number of bands polished their licks, but also home to Andy Warhol and many other artists, writers, and celebrities – and more than a few transgendered people. It was in this environment that David Bowie developed the sexy androgyny of "Ziggy Stardust," and where Lou Reed crafted the biographical "Walk on the Wild Side." The New York Dolls and Jayne County also held court upstairs at Max's, developing a mix of masculine rock 'n' roll posturing and feminine looks that is still very much a mainstay of rock.

So I knew when I heard the soundtrack that I would find something to love within *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*. The music evokes much of that glam and early punk sound that I have grown to love. But that isn't what made me sit down to pen a column.

In fact, I had my trepidations when I even considered writing anything related to the film, because I'm not sure exactly how many transgendered people will relate to the movie or its title character. To be honest, I suspect many will find *Hedwig* objectionable, and not an "acceptable role model."

Even I had to watch myself, to avoid that particular pitfall. I still find myself wondering if the film is, indeed, a "transgendered" film, or some other animal. Certainly, part of the film's "gimmick" is having a title character who is the victim of a seriously botched genital reassignment, leaving her with the "angry inch" of the title. Yet while I expected a movie about a transsexual, I got a film that was deeper, with an air of both tragedy and triumph surrounding the title character.

The film's main themes seem to be of control and power, but what most appeals to me is an intriguing – and possibly unintentional – subtext about being a freak, about being so queer that there is no clear box to fit in. Indeed, even I find myself without any certainty about *Hedwig's* place, and had to catch a second show before I could find any form



of clear resolution to the story.

As a transperson, I am familiar with the concept of "fitting in," and trying to avoid being seen as freakish. It's somewhere close to "Rule #1" in some transgender circles. We are taught, by our caregivers and our peers, that the goal is to be as close to "average man" or "average woman" as we can attain. The concept of blending in with the crowd is touted as the goal, and standing out in any way is routinely discouraged.

Being seen as something out of the norm can be mean a life of isolation along the fringe. It can also make one's life all that shorter. You can see that in a number of other films about transgendered people, like *Boys Don't Cry*, *Ma Vie En Rose*, or *Southern Comfort*. To turn a phrase, living on the edge means living with the risk of getting cut.

The difference is that *Hedwig* takes her strength in being a freak. Rather than trying to fit in as well, just about anything – the character seems at her best on the margin, away from anyone's expectations. Ze is not trying to blend in; instead, ze is challenging us to "tear her down," knowing that ze is as sturdy as a wall.

This is where *Hedwig* and I

cross paths. I was already a freak by high school, and had already become familiar with the difficulties with living on the outside of the norm. When I finally faced my own gender transition, more than a few friends recommended I stick with time-tested methods of blending in and remaining carefully hidden from the world. Rather than try to avoid the fringe and stick to a conventional path, I realized that such was not the place for me. Instead, I opted to take my strength from being outside the norm, and to seek the wholeness of my own being in places aside from the tried and true paths of my peers. *Hedwig*, like me, has had to learn to find happiness not in the paths that others may lay out for us, but in being a freak of our own design.

And that, to me, is a message that more than a few of us can take out of *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*. Sometimes it is necessary to be on that edge and take our power from that very margin others seek to avoid. ▼

Gwen Smith just wishes she could have some of the costumes from the film, but would settle for the lipstick. You can find her on the Web at www.gwensmith.com or in Gay.com's "Transgender Gazebo."

Our Man Friday

◀ previous page

step down. Meanwhile, Senator Dianne Feinstein, unquestionably the state's most popular Democrat, as well as South Bay Representative Anna Eshoo (D), both of whom had publicly defended Condit, have now joined in suggesting that he is hurting not only his own reputation, but the party as well. Feinstein, in particular, is furious that Condit "lied to me; for that I do not forgive him" and she suggested that Condit follow the advice he so willingly gave President Clinton a couple of years ago to "tell the truth, tell the public all there is to know about your public life."

Now here is a real problem; some residents of Charleston,

South Carolina are asking that city's planning commission to change the name of one of their streets, Gay Place, to Moultrie Court. The move was started by a woman, troubled apparently, who lives on Gay Place. "The word 'gay' just isn't like what it used to be; it's not about being happy anymore," she says. It isn't?

How do you like these odds? Governor Gray Davis's current campaign financial reports show the guy sitting on a \$30.5 million campaign war chest for next year's re-election bid while one of his GOP opponents, Secretary of State Bill Jones, has less than a \$1 million in the bank. (Yes, Jesse Unruh was right when he said "money is the mother's milk of politics.")

And how was your week? ▼

Our first anniversary in Vermont

by Dale Carpenter

A famous American jurist once said the life of the law has been experience, not logic. One year after Vermont enacted its civil unions law – the closest thing this country has ever had to gay marriage – the most remarkable thing is how unremarkable that year has been. No meteors have descended on Montpelier; no plague of locusts has stripped bare the maple trees; husbands have not left their wives for nubile male youths; wives have not abandoned their children for sapphic music festivals. It is more experience like this that will give us nationwide gay marriage one day.

Discussions about Vermont's civil unions usually begin with the Vermont Supreme Court's bold declaration in December 1999 that opposite-sex-only marriage violates the state Constitution. But that's like beginning a history of the polio vaccine with the first inoculation. It's an important event but it would not have happened without all of the hard work that preceded it.

Long before the Vermont Supreme Court got involved, gay advocates had been arguing strenuously in legislatures, courts, and workplaces for recognition, any recognition, of same-sex couples.

This advocacy, which gave us the term "domestic partnership," had both symbolic and practical purposes. On the level of symbol, some formal recognition of gay couples is important as a marker of social acceptance. And whatever we may say at times, this movement is ultimately about acceptance, not mere tolerance. I tolerate the fact that my neighbor mows his lawn only once a month in the summer, but I do not accept it.

On the practical level, gay couples needed the benefits recognition can bring, like health insurance, hospital visitation rights, and family and medical leave.

As the domestic partnership movement spread, businesses, cities, and states took note: experience showed that recognizing gay couples cost very little and had the practical benefit of keeping gay employees and constituents happy. Scores of Fortune 500 companies, dozens of cities, and a handful of states now have some kind of domestic partnership policy covering same-sex couples.

This experience informed the Vermont Supreme Court's stunning decision that the state must treat gay unions as equivalent to marriages. If gay couples had been given some of the benefits of marriage – and no harm had resulted – why not take the next step of granting all of those benefits, even if we don't call it "marriage"? It was the next incremental step.

What have we learned in the past year as a consequence of that step?

One thing we have learned is that supporting same-sex unions is still a politically risky proposition for a politician. After the state Supreme Court ordered lawmakers to come up with marriage or its equivalent for gay couples, Vermont's legislature grudgingly cre-

ated civil unions. But several state legislators who voted for the civil unions bill – especially supportive Republicans who were seen as heretical by party primary voters – lost their seats. An anti-civil-unions campaign succeeded in taking the state House of Representatives for the GOP in the November 2000 election.

The more important and longer-lasting lesson of the past year was summed up nicely by Vermont Governor Howard Dean in an interview with the *New York Times*. The sky has not fallen, he said, "and the institution of marriage has not collapsed."

Throughout the state, the passions of last year's debate over civil unions has subsided. Newspapers aren't venting editorials about it every day. The ubiquitous "Take Back Vermont" signs are slowly coming down. Legislative efforts to repeal or water down civil unions have stalled. People are even talking about how the law has led to a small increase in tourism since most civil unions registrants have come from other states.

Civil unions are becoming routine. According to the *Times*, there have been 2,479 of them since July 1, 2000, the date the law took effect. (Only 502 of those have involved Vermont residents.) A Web site devoted to assisting gay couples preparing for weddings (gayweddings.com), reports a substantial increase in traffic.

With all these domestic partnerships and civil unions we are seeing the normalization of gay life in America. That is, we are witnessing the process by which being gay in this country will no longer mean standing apart from the mainstream. That's an unsavory prospect for both queer the-



Vermont Governor Howard Dean

orists and for religious conservatives who had hoped, for different reasons, to keep us out of the mainstream.

Let's not be too exuberant quite yet, however. Domestic partnerships are not gay marriage. Not even civil unions are gay marriage since one state cannot, against the express statutory will of Congress (remember the Defense of Marriage Act?), confer the federal benefits on them that are available to opposite-sex spouses.

But what domestic partnerships and civil unions and their cognates do is this: they give Americans something to call gay relationships other than "perversion." They show people, slowly and surely, there is no harm in formal recognition of those relationships, and, in fact, there is some benefit in it for everyone.

After seeing one employer after another, and then one municipality after another, and then one state after another, survive the loss of a state-sponsored heterosexual monopoly on love, it just may be that one day the country will be ready for the real thing. ▼

Dale Carpenter is a law professor. He can be reached at OutRight@aol.com.

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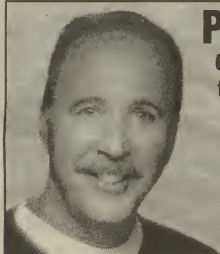
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Goldberg, supporters tackling transgender protection on two levels

by David Fraser

Assemblywoman Jackie Goldberg (D-Los Angeles) is switching her transgender protection bill to two-year status, hoping that the protections she is seeking can be enacted earlier via agency regulation.

Political uncertainties in Sacramento have prompted transgender activists and their supporters to seek tighter regulations in the wake of recent court cases that supported TG complaints. If court decisions are applied, agency regulation, which does not require the entire legislative process, could move quickly.

Goldberg supports such moves. But she is determined to get statutory backing to underpin the protections, and is not letting uncertainty about the bill, AB1649, block her conviction that it will eventually become California law. She has herded it this summer through the Assembly and partway through the state Senate.

Housing and employment

AB1649 prohibits gender-based discrimination in employment and housing. It expands the



Assemblywoman Jackie Goldberg

California Fair Employment and Housing Act, adding to the act's list of prohibitions any discrimination based on actual or perceived gender.

California's hate crimes laws and state education code currently cover transgenders and people who don't fit conventional gender stereotypes. Passage of the bill would extend similar protections to people in the work place and in housing markets.

Sounding determined and upbeat despite the ups and downs of

the legislation, Goldberg, an open lesbian, told the *Bay Area Reporter*: "I'm committed to [move the bill], and at a time when it's either ignored or signed by the governor, but not vetoed."

"Sometimes, in politics, it's two steps forward and one step back. In my humble opinion, after talking with people and groups in the transgender community, the best thing is to leave it in [the state Senate Appropriations Committee] and look at it again in January."

The extension of the bill to two-year status, Goldberg added, "is a decision that has in mind achieving what we want to achieve: that the law should be the law. In the long term, this [protection] is still going to go into the statutes."

What is clear, said Goldberg, is that "even if we get really good [FEHA] regulations, since those can be changed, it doesn't mean I'm going to stop. These provisions need to be put into the statutes; I don't want some future department director to go and change them."

Court cases

Two recent court cases may be used to quickly prod transgender

page 17 ►

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Robert Noel

◀ page 1

him to take the position he did and let the court of appeals bail him out on it. In my 34 years of practice, I've seen judges basically pass a hot potato to the court of appeals on any number of occasions."

Noel and his wife, both attorneys, have been representing themselves in the civil case so far, but Noel said they would likely hire a private attorney by the time the case goes to trial.

Noel said he found it ironic that he and his wife have in effect been pitted in a fight against gay rights.

"That's one of the amazing things from our perspective, because of our history with the AIDS Legal Referral Panel, and I've worked voluntarily with the legal services program, and the way we've conducted our lives, generally."

"Out of seven non-family members at our wedding and in our wedding reception back in 1989, three of the seven were gay, two of the men there were committed longtime partners, unfortunately we lost one of them to AIDS a year later."

Besides Smith's lawsuit, Noel and Knoller face a wrongful death lawsuit from Whipple's mother, Pamela Whipple-Kelly. Noel believes Robertson's decision could put Whipple-Kelly's suit in jeopardy.

"If Sharon Smith is considered a spouse, that should knock the mom's case out, because if there is a surviving spouse for purposes of the wrongful death statute, that should mean there's a surviving spouse for purposes of intestate succession, so mother would not be somebody who could take by intestate succession, so, she would not be somebody who would have a claim for wrongful death statute."

Life behind bars

As this reporter was being escorted into the pod of the San



Robert Noel

Francisco County jail on 7th Street where Noel is being held, it appeared that the supervisor had mistakenly entered the women's section of the jail. He hadn't. Noel's cell is on the upper tier of a two-tier jail pod reserved for male-to-female transgendered prisoners. About a third of the 40 other inmates on his floor are transgendered. Perhaps in deference to its demographics, a stack of B.A.R.s was available on the floor.

"The way they work it in here is if you are a transgender and you have not made the final step to alter your genitalia, you're housed with the group that your genitalia would indicate. Hell, there are women in here with bigger breasts than Marjorie's," said Noel, noting that the transgendered prisoners are provided with hormone therapy while in custody.

Noel shares cell #12 with another non-transgendered prisoner. His cell, or cage, as he calls it, has a window that's partially blocked by a sewer drain pipe and it has a partial view of the Central Freeway. As he pointed out his cell, one transgender inmate was doing the hair of another directly in front of it. Noel quipped that his hair has been looking good since his arrival in the unit.

Noel has been in custody since his arrest on March 27 in Tehama County. For the first two months in jail, he was kept in "administrative segregation" and only allowed out for about 10 minutes a day to take showers and make phone calls. Now, he's allowed the freedom to move around throughout the jail pod that consists of a main lower floor with a common area set up for prisoners that includes tables and a television. The deputies' observation station juts

out in the center of the pod, between the two levels, giving the guards a 360 degree view of both floors.

Despite his high-profile case, Noel told the B.A.R. that he has had no problems with other prisoners.

"They're pretty respectful. Every once in a while somebody will come up and say 'Hey man, we think it's bullshit,' and you say thanks but they don't talk about the case in here. Every once in a while somebody will say either in here or walking down the hall, 'Hey man, you're the dog guy aren't you?'"

Noel said he often gets legal questions from other prisoners.

"Most questions I get are 'Hey you're a lawyer, what about this, what about that?' And I say 'Hey, I'm a lawyer and you're asking me for advice but look at where I am.'"

Most of the questions Noel gets lately are about the food. Since the management of the food service changed hands, Noel said the food has gone "to hell in a hand-basket."

"There was something two nights ago that was kind of orange, and it sat there, it was a blob, it couldn't be called mystery meat, it could certainly be called a mystery," said Noel laughing. "We ran out of grievance forms last week about the food."

Despite the food concerns, Noel had high praise for the way the jail is run.

"This is a really well-run operation. You get a variety of personalities in the staff here but I have yet to run into anybody here who's a deputy or anyone in the administration who are just plain assholes. Some of them are just a little more strict on rules than others but by and large they treat everybody with respect and they try to run a nice quiet safe program and they do a pretty good job of it."

Noel said he passes time by doing a lot of sleeping and a lot of reading, despite the lack of variety in reading materials.

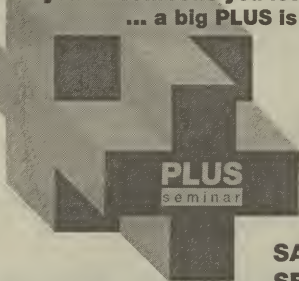
Knoller declined to be interviewed by the B.A.R. but Noel said she was having a much tougher time than him adjusting to jail life.

"As far as Marjorie goes, the situation in here is not optimal. But it's easier on me than it is on her, that's about all I want to say about that."

Noel said he is trying to get jail officials to allow him to share a

page 19 ▶

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Gay group excluded from international UN conference

by Katie Szymanski

The program includes confronting issues of gender discrimination, intolerance, and exclusion from political, social, and economic circles, but don't expect any LGBT representation at the United Nations World Conference Against Racism

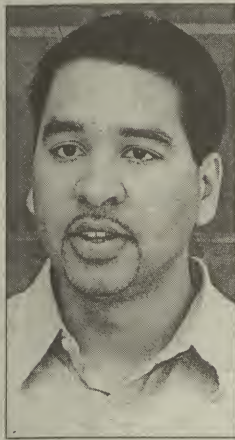
later this month.

The International Lesbian and Gay Association was denied official attendance at the conference last week by a 43-43 tie vote. A majority of "yes" votes was needed for approval. A Swedish delegate, a supporter of ILGA, was two minutes late to the vote and therefore could not break the tie. Countries voting in favor of ILGA's attendance included Australia, Brazil, Canada, Japan, Poland, and yes, even the United States. Those opposed included Algeria, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, Tunisia, and Uganda. The challenge to ILGA's inclusion came from the Organization of the Islamic Conference, which is comprised of 57 countries.

The World Conference Against Racism will take place in Durban, South Africa, from August 31 to September 7, and will focus on "action-oriented and practical steps to eradicate racism, including measures of prevention, education and protection and the provision of effective remedies. It will be a unique and important opportunity to create a new world vision for the fight against racism in the 21st century," according to organizers.

ILGA's exclusion at the conference is seen by many as a missed opportunity to expand anti-racist efforts to all activist circles.

"Racism and homophobia have the same roots," said Faisal Alam, director of Al-Fatiha, the ground-



Faisal Alam, director of Al-Fatiha

breaking LGBT Muslim group that marched in this year's San Francisco's Pride Parade despite numerous threats of violence and death. "Oppressions including racism, sexism, and classism are linked. It is sad that the Organization of the Islamic Conference, which is often quick to condemn Islamic-phobia, does not recognize that many of the same issues are also faced by lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people."

It was the Islamic Conference that was also responsible for

blocking a final resolution at the U.N. General Assembly special session on HIV/AIDS in June that included mention of the most vulnerable communities affected by the epidemic, including gay men, sex workers, and drug users.

ILGA is comprised of more than 300 organizations in 80 different countries working toward human rights for all LGBT people across the globe. Although disappointed, its leaders are not deterred, and still plan on attending the conference, as well as hosting a demonstration against the vote.

Ironically, the conference declaration, entitled, "Tolerance and Diversity - A Vision for the 21st Century," is the document signed by many participating countries that attempts to set an inclusive tone for the gathering.

"As a new century begins, we believe each society needs to ask itself certain questions. Is it sufficiently inclusive? Is it non-discriminatory?" the declaration states. "Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and all kinds of related intolerance have not gone away. We recognize that they persist in the new century and that their persistence is rooted in fear: fear of what is different, fear of the other, fear of the loss of personal security. And while we recognize that human fear is in itself ineradicable, we maintain that its consequences are not ineradicable. We all constitute one human family." ▼

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OBITUARIES

Halloween

◀ page 2

route at Church Street?

Barry Hermanson, a MUMC vice president, told the B.A.R. that he has several concerns.

"The basic concept is good, to create some additional recreational draw for people to the new community center and be in costume and in a parade," Hermanson said. "My main problem is the publicity will draw additional people. We're already Mardi Gras for a night. We frankly have our work cut out for us."

Hermanson said that between now and October 31, he hopes to meet with media representatives—particularly television stations—in an effort to downplay the Castro as a destination on Halloween. "When I see cameras out on the street at 6 p.m., that tells me more people are coming from the 'burbs," he said.

Lion Barnett, with the Eureka Valley Promotion Association, said that Lightsey has addressed his group twice. EVPA also opposes the parade if it comes to the Castro. Lightsey also met with little enthusiasm from members of Castro Area Planning and Action.

Over the last 15 years or so, Barnett said, Halloween in the Castro has become less of a gay event, and more of an event that draws people from outside San Francisco, the so-called bridge and tunnel crowd. Additionally, he said, over the years homophobes have come to the street party, and there have been reported incidents of anti-gay violence.

"The tone has gotten a lot more hostile," Barnett said, "and a lot more unsafe." ▼

Goldberg, TGs

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protections in California without relying on AB1649.

In New Jersey, an appellate court in *Enriquez v. West Jersey Health Systems* held that transgenders are protected under the sex and disability clauses of state law. In a Ninth Circuit decision, the court held in *Nichols, et. al. v. Azteca Restaurant Enterprises* that a male employee who was harassed for being "too effeminate" was protected under federal sex discrimination laws.

Shannon Minter, a senior staff attorney at the National Center for Lesbian Rights, told the B.A.R.: "These are interpretations of federal statutes, but they are very important for California state law. California courts have always held that in California, sex discrimination [law] should be at least as protective as that in Title 7" of the U.S. Code.

Minter said he thought the decisions would have immediate impact on the issue here.

"We just need to have the Department of Fair Employment and Housing share the view that transgender people are covered under current California law, and not in Jackie Goldberg's bill," Minter said. "There are some indications they are sharing that view, based on recent cases."

He added that "we want internal policies that allow [the department] to process transgender discrimination complaints immediately, and that gets us what we need and want. So many [transgender] people get fired or kicked out of their housing."

Regardless, he said, "Jackie's approach is so great; she doesn't need a lot of credit and she's not in it for ego. She's in it for the protection of transgender people." ▼

OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste. If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death. Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

Fred Van Allen
(aka Helen Highwater)

A loyal friend and kind, sensitive soul has passed on. On Thursday, July 24, 2001, Fred was found dead while house-sitting. His unique charm and creativity will be missed by many who'd been exposed to his quirky, delightful humor. Fred co-produced "Theater Lorelei" and worked with numerous other pioneering drag-oriented companies at Kimo's, Tango-Tango and Marlena's. One of his more memorable appearances at our

Hollywood Cabaret was alongside Madonna, as the "Unigander-Bomber." It was even rumored that as a lad he'd snagged a bit part in that unforgettable camp classic, *Myra Breckinridge*.

For many years, Fred had worked as a legal secretary, and he brought a sharp intelligence and flair to all his numerous creative endeavors. His event fliers were bright and inventive; his personalized greeting cards aesthetic, titillating nuggets of sardonic brilliance (pity Nancy Reagan!).

Writes a friend: "Fred was a sweet, caring... wonderful being, who possessed... a special gift that allowed him to see the absurdness of things in this world.... Instead of feeling hurt, angry, saddened or upset... he saw profound humor in them. He turned sadness and frustration into joy and humor, for himself and all with whom he came into contact."

We'll honor Fred with an open celebration at Martini's on Saturday, August 18, 6-10 p.m. Contact Roberto: (415) 921-6748.

Be in peace, my dear friend.

David Shenanaquet



David Shenanaquet died July 22nd of heart failure after a short illness. He would have been 51 on July 25th.

A native of the Detroit, Michigan area, David lived in San Francisco for many years.

He is survived by his sister Lillian Woods and long-time companion Jesse.



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It

by Jim Provenzano

I was shocked last month by the news of an athlete disappearing from the roster of our local professional baseball team. Shocked, I tell you.

The Pittsburgh Pirates traded right-handed pitcher Jason Schmidt and outfielder John Vander Wal to the San Francisco Giants for outfielder Armando Rios and a minor league prospect.

The Giants, behind division-leading Los Angeles and third in the NL West, made the trade one day before the deadline to make deals without having to put players on waivers first. The Pirates' 41-63 record ties Cincinnati for the worst in the National League.

By the time I finished writing this, ESPN had already reposted Rios's mug shot with a Pirates cap. The utterly gorgeous Rios hit .368 with an on-base percentage of .467 and a slugging percentage of .607. In 163 at-bats, Rios clubbed 10 homers and knocked in 39 runs.

The year 2000 marked Rios's first full season in the big leagues,

providing power and run production as a part-time substitute for right fielder Ellis Burks. Rios provided virtually the same RBI per at-bat as teammates Barry Bonds, Burks, and Jeff Kent.

I don't go for the backtalking of Armando. I think he will be missed. I particularly enjoyed his support of the cause to fight prostate cancer.

Rios struggled against left-handers, hitting .167 against them in 42 at-bats. His aggression is evident in the field, particularly in his forearms and glutes.

I became a much more interested Giants fan when I took a tour to the sunny back field, where viewing the game from behind Mr. Rios took on a much more enjoyable, er gluteal perspective.

Sigh. Bye, Armando. The night I wrote this, your new team got beat by your old team.

But what is a team, anymore? Between his quick change from one set of colors to another, one wonders how long Armando took

to change.

But what about his underwear?

'It' came from beneath

Yes, what's down there? The contents? The goods? What is under the strap of so many admired players? This seems to obsess just about every gay sports fan I haven't met in 3D, but the ones who send and offer length, evidence, rumors, tribute Web sites, and miles of speculation.

Is this why straight jocks feel so threatened by us, and why they wear our baggy, faggy Aberzombie fashions to cover themselves up?

Well, some are uncovering.

The following message was sent to me, and thousands of others, in that "not-exactly factual but accepted as fact if enough people believe it" way:

"I only heard it in passing but on the early news here in Tucson a sports announcer mentioned (derisively) that some male baseball star was offered — I didn't hear it — or the name — some amount for a nude picture. Anybody out there know about this?"

Another devotee:

"I heard some of the same story. I was traveling the other day, and I caught a bit of Jim Rome's sports/talk show on an AM station while surfing. A caller was asking about this, and Rome said, 'He'd be happy if he could do porn movies for a career. Just watch.'"

Who is the mystery player?

You must know by now.

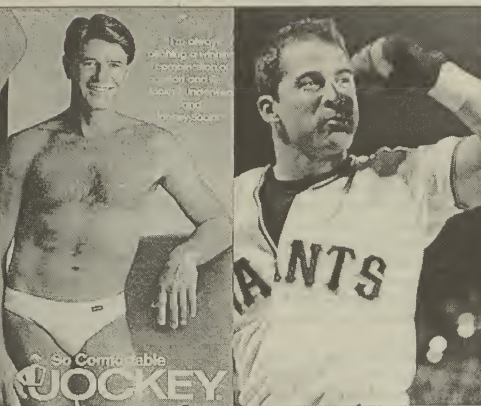
Here's the pseudo-definitive account, from another:

"I was listening Friday night to 106.7 out of D.C. (WJFK), there is a show called 'Sports Junkies' and they interviewed Jim Palmer (the one and only). Before commercial, they said he would be up next to talk about his appearance in *Playgirl*. No, that's not a typo! I found a blank cassette, and I popped it in to record the interview. Here's a fairly accurate transcript: (don't pass out!)"

Question: So Jim, tell us about you and *Playgirl* magazine.

Jim: I got a call from the editor, Tasha Chirt, and she said they were interested in having me do an underwear layout for old-times sake, but without the underwear. I didn't know what to say, but just said I would give it some thought and get back with her. I hung up thinking I would say "no," but the more I thought about it, the more I was interested. I ended up saying yes, and we shot the pictures several weeks later.

Q: What made you change your mind?



Out and in (uniform): Jim Palmer removes shorts; Armando Rios, a uniform

Jim: I was flattered — and surprised — that they asked, but I remember asking if it was for a *Geezer*'s issue. I did it, because I thought it would be a way to show that a mature man can be just as sexy ... It might also just be my mid-life crisis.

Q: I gotta ask, though, I'm sure the ladies will want to know ... do they finally get to see "it"?

Jim: (laughs) Yes, actually ... my "it" gets plenty of exposure ... in detail!

Q: So what made you decide to show the full monty?

Jim: Stupidity! No ... I knew if I said yes, I wouldn't get away without going all the way. People saw me in my underwear for years, so who would pay to see me in my underwear now ... they'd say "big deal." Besides, I had to prove once and for all that I didn't stuff my underwear all those years.

Q: (laughter)

Jim: Seriously, I was asked more than once if I stuffed tissue to make my bulge larger ... I always said, "No, I don't have to."

Q: No bragging, Jim! I guess if you've got it, flaunt it! But you're the first baseball Hall of Famer to bare all like this, do you think some fans might not react favorably?

Jim: There's always that chance, but I know the response I got from the underwear ads and the posters was positive, to the point of being embarrassing. ... At one time I had the top selling poster in the country, ahead of Cheryl Tiegs and anyone else.

Q: So when will this momentous issue hit the stands?

Jim: I don't know yet, but I think they are going with it late in the fall.

"They then went on to talk about the Orioles. I couldn't believe it, and still wonder if it is a joke. It sounded real, though, and I'm pretty sure it was him they were talking to."

There you have it. I don't know

if it's true or not. The folks at *Playgirl* haven't returned my repeated requests for e-mailed jpgs of the contact sheets.

Well, I have to see them to know it's true, right?

They call the wind Farias

Authorities aren't as open about nudity in Brazil, despite what one would think from the several nude spreads of South American jocks in *G* magazine and other sources.

A few months ago, a Brazilian footballer who stripped down to skimpy underpants and threw his shorts into the crowd was arrested for indecency. Goal scorer William Pereira Farias pranced around the pitch twirling his shorts above his head as a goal celebration.

In Italy, the fans rip the uniforms off the athletes, so they really can't be fined. It's not the players' fault.

But in Brazil, Farias was immediately red-carded, then arrested by police after his minor league side, Ponta Pora played local rivals Andradina. Pereira faces the police charge and was fined by his club — but has been offered cash to pose for *G*.

Farias left the stadium in a police van. The club fined the forward half of his £90-a-month salary and he now he faces a charge for indecent exposure.

Let's hope he knows how to pay the rent. Posing for *G* magazine pays much more than his salary, I'm told.

How about this: Armando poses nude, and give Palmer's undies to Farias, who should host a show of his own on Telemundo. Just a thought.

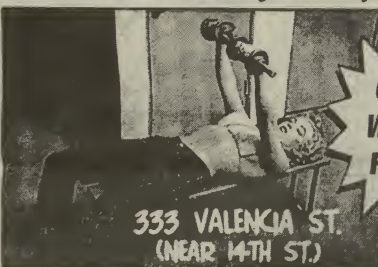
Sunny side up

For local, clothed, yet gay and lesbian softball of the largest order (for you size queens), prepare ye the way of the ballgame at the World Series, with events going on from August 11-19. The games will be played August 14-18, at Twin Creeks Sports Complex in Sunnyvale.

next page ►

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Oakland gay bar

◀ page 1

lice reports from February through May 26 about neighbors' complaints that included statements that Bench & Bar patrons were allegedly urinating in public, making noise late at night, or having sex in the parking lot operated by Douglas Parking, which Bisbee says is not his property or concern. He has, however, hired extra security to enforce quiet at the bar and parking lot.

The instance of alleged kissing between two men was spotted during video surveillance of the Bench & Bar by two police officers between 10:30 p.m. and 2 a.m. on May 25.

"...two male patrons loitered in front of the cabaret kissing and the security guard did not ask them to move along or out of the area," according to the police report referred to in the hearing notice.

During the same surveillance period, Sergeant R. Crawford and Officer C. Del Rosario observed two males engaged in "possible sexual intercourse in a car" in the lot; four security guards speaking "loudly" with female patrons; a man urinating at the cabaret's side entrance; a patron honking his horn; another urinator; and patrons loitering and talking loudly in front of the bar "during closing hours." Music from the cabaret

could be heard at nearby residences, the notice said.

'Homophobic monster'

Such outdoor male kissing acts apparently "unleash the hateful monster in homophobic people with power," commented Bisbee's lawyer and tenant, Dan Horowitz. "You have to deal with them, but there's nothing in the law, Constitution, or state Constitution that makes [kissing] illegal."

Carroll's hearing notice said the OPD had contacted Bisbee several times about the nuisance complaints and activities, but they continued.

Bisbee told the B.A.R. that following complaints – to the police, not the cabaret – he posted signs in English and Spanish urging his patrons to keep the noise levels down and respect the neighbors. He said he also sent a letter to the apartment's tenants, asking them to contact him if there were any further complaints.

Since May 26, Bisbee said, he has only received two letters and both were complimentary.

The surveillance observations noted in the hearing order were conducted by officers from OPD's alcohol beverage action team and the vice detail. Officers issued citations on May 26 to people drinking inside a vehicle in the Douglas Parking lot, the hearing order said. There was no indication if people having alleged sex

were cited.

Restaurant issue

The hearing notice also said the OPD had complained that Bisbee was violating a full-service restaurant requirement under zoning laws. Bisbee said that he was not in violation and his operation fully met the conditions of the license agreement.

The OPD's Sergeant Brock, acting lieutenant in the vice unit, said he could see no reason why the kissing should have been listed: "I've been 19 years on the police force, and it's not a problem. I've never seen anything like this, and I don't know why it's on the report. Kissing by people of any sex [is fine] as long as it's with discretion, [i.e.] no oral sex."

During the phone interview, Brock checked with Sergeant Crawford, currently with the department's special operations unit. He said Crawford shared his view that there should be no complaint about the men kissing.

"I do regular surveillance reports, and document everything I see," Brock told the B.A.R. "I'm surprised it's in the complaint. It stands out to me as well." ▼

The August 15 hearing starts at 10 a.m. in hearing room 2, first floor, Oakland City Hall, 1 Frank Ogawa Plaza, in downtown Oakland.

LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE NO. 250127

The following person(s) are doing business as: Caffee Soma, Soma Caffee, Caffee Soma Coffee, 1601 Howard Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by a individual signed John Z. Rocker. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, July 2, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 07/10/01.

JULY 19, 26, AUG. 2, 9, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 250026

The following person(s) are doing business as: Maurice's Restaurant, 312 Divisadero, San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by an individual signed Maurice Mogannam. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 07/05/01.

JULY 19, 26, AUG. 2, 9, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 250130

The following person(s) are doing business as: David Lurey Consulting / David Lurey Ashianga, 1548 Sacramento Street #16, San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by an individual signed David Lee Lurey. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 07/10/01.

JULY 19, 26, AUG. 2, 9, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 250213

The following person(s) are doing business as: David A. Slavy Designer, 3781 Berry Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed David Arthur Stacy. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, July 12, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 07/12/01.

JULY 19, 26, AUG. 2, 9, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 250099

The following person(s) are doing business as: Vege House, 309 6th Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by an individual signed Van T. Dang. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, July 19, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 07/09/01.

JULY 19, 26, AUG. 2, 9, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 250236

The following person(s) are doing business as: New Fashion Design, 888 Brannan Street, #275, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by an individual signed Oh, Hyang Suk. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, July 13, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 07/13/01.

JULY 19, 26, AUG. 2, 9, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 250254

The following person(s) are doing business as: Brendel Insurance Services, 1000 Pennsylvania Avenue #4, San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by an individual signed James R. Brendel. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 07/13/01.

JULY 19, 26, AUG. 2, 9, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 250520

The following person(s) are doing business as: Bartley Anderson, 130 Brentwood Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94127. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Paul Villa and Rob Willis. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, July 25, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 07/25/01.

AUG. 2, 9, 16, 23, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 250486

The following person(s) are doing business as: Red Rat Industries, 95 McCoppin Street #E402, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by an individual signed Malia Spaniol. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, July 15, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 07/24/01.

AUG. 2, 9, 16, 23, 2001

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 321200

In the Matter of the Application of Tung Anh Payton. For change of Name. The application of Tung Anh Payton for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Tung Anh Payton has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Anh Payton. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 30th day of August at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

JULY 19, 26, AUG. 2, 9, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 250378

The following person(s) are doing business as: Seventy-Seven Auto Repair, 77 Grace Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Thomas Chan-president. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, July 19, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 07/19/01.

AUG. 2, 9, 16, 23, 2001

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 322136

In the Matter of the Application of Duane Martin Boyer. For change of Name. The application of Duane Martin Boyer for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Duane Martin Boyer has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Dina Lee Boyer. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 20th day of August at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

JULY 19, 26, AUG. 2, 9, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 250251

The following person(s) are doing business as: Agueda's Family Daycare, 1393 York Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Agueda Rivas. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, June 26, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 07/15/01.

JULY 26, AUG. 2, 9, 16, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 250318

The following person(s) are doing business as: Thomas International Group, LLC, 2261 Market Street, #466, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by a limited liability company signed Thomas D. Matty, principal. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, July 5, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 07/17/01.

JULY 26, AUG. 2, 9, 16, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 250343

The following person(s) are doing business as: Asla Pearl Co. Inc. 888 Brannan Street #195, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Jennifer Chuang, president. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, July 18, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 07/18/01.

JULY 26, AUG. 2, 9, 16, 2001

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 322877

In the Matter of the Application of Julian Andres Mendoza. For change of Name. The application of Julian Andres Mendoza for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Julian Andres Mendoza has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Louis Alanzo Mendoza. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 12th day of September at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

JULY 19, 26, AUG. 2, 9, 2001

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO. 217796

The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Thomas Chan DBA Seventy-Seven Auto Repair, Located at: 77 Grace Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. The day of September at 9:00am., of said day was filed in the County of San Francisco on: 10/02/1997. This business was conducted by: a individual: Thomas Chan.

AUG. 2, 9, 16, 23, 2001

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 323231

In the Matter of the Application of Arthur Charles Corbett. For change of Name. The application of Arthur Charles Corbett for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Arthur Charles Corbett has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Arthur Christopher Corbett. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 25 day of September at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

AUG. 2, 9, 16, 23, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 250733

The following person(s) are doing business as: Morning Star Import, 2813 24th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Shing Yuen-Sin. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 8/03/01.

AUG. 9, 16, 23, 30, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 250661

The following person(s) are doing business as: Chinatown Economic Development Group, 638 Kearny Street, Suite #202, San Francisco, Ca. 94108. This business is conducted by a non-profit organization signed Sally Leung. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, December 10, 1992. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 8/01/2001.

AUG. 9, 16, 23, 30, 2001

Robert Noel

◀ page 14

cell with Knoller. He believes he's on firm legal ground to make the request.

"There is a specific exemption under Section 4002 of the penal code that permits husbands and wives to be housed together in a jail facility," he said. "She and I under the penal code should be permitted to be living in the same housing unit and we have a grievance pending that we're waiting for the response on the appeal. The initial response was 'go away.' We've taken an appeal on that and I understand that will probably be denied."

San Francisco Sheriff's Department spokeswoman Eileen Hirst confirmed that Noel filed a grievance to be housed with Knoller but that the request was denied.

Hirst noted that the penal code to which Noel refers "does not require, it allows [that husbands and wives can be housed together] and we simply cannot accommodate that request."

Noel said the only way he can communicate directly with Knoller is through the mail, which takes at least four days because of the time it takes to process outside mail. Noel said he and Knoller are, in effect, the victims of reverse discrimination because they are a heterosexual couple.

"For example, if Marjorie and I were a same-sex couple in this jail, we could be housed in the same cells. We could talk to one another during the day. We could sit

down at the tables. We could go back to our rooms, jump in our bunks, talk to one another, get dressed, get undressed without any problem. But because we're a heterosexual couple, they won't even let us talk to one another unless somebody else is sitting in there, somebody else is watching us, and in most instances they require that we get a court order so that we can sit down and talk to one another and it's simply because I'm male and she's female and we're married."

Noel's 45-minute interview with the B.A.R. was interrupted at about 9 a.m. by the jail supervisor who informed him that his lawyer was downstairs to see him. The attorney, Bruce Hotchkiss, was probably prompted by an interview Noel did the night before with KTVU. It was his first interview since his arrest in March.

"I think one of the things he's going to be talking about is that I'm even talking to you," said Noel, adding that he didn't think he would be talking to any other reporters.

Noel was very outspoken in the press after the January 26 attack but he stopped talking to reporters after his arrest. Prosecutors and Hotchkiss have subpoenaed local television stations for copies of broadcast interviews with Noel and Knoller. The couple's statements to the media about the incident may play a significant role in the case.

Noel is being charged with involuntary manslaughter. Knoller, who was with the two Presa Canario dogs during the January 26

attack, faces a charge of second-degree murder. The couple is also being charged with keeping a mischievous animal that killed a human being. They are in jail on a combined bail of \$3 million.

Hotchkiss and Knoller's attorney, Jan Lecklikner, have their work cut out for them. Prosecutors allege the couple had ample warning that the dogs were dangerous before the attack and did nothing to mitigate that danger. Several people have come forward to describe run-ins with the dogs. Whipple's friends say one of the couple's dogs had bitten her once before.

Noel and Knoller unleashed a public relations nightmare on themselves when they released an 18-page letter they sent to District Attorney Terence Hallinan on January 31 in which they questioned whether Whipple may have provoked the attack by wearing a pheromone-based scent or by taking steroids. The couple also suggested that Whipple could have easily taken herself out of harm's way if she had simply entered her apartment and shut the door when the canines first began to attack, a charge that's vigorously refuted by Whipple's supporters.

The couple's comments infuriated many. They were vilified on talk shows and in newspaper editorials in the Bay Area and around the country. The case has generated international media attention.

The criminal case is slated to go to trial October 22. No trial date has been set yet for the wrongful death suits. ▼

mittee.

Auctioned items will include T-shirts signed by Whoopie Goldberg and "Sir Ian McKellen." I'm not familiar with his work. ▼

Visit the SFGSL sponsored 2001 World Series site at <http://www.SFGSL.org/worldseries/>; call: (415) 436-0707; or write: 584 Castro Street PMB 835 San Francisco, CA 94114. Visit me at <http://sportscomplex.org>.

Sports Complex

◀ previous page

In San Francisco, events of the World Series 2001 include a party after the Giants Game on Friday, August 17.

The "Extra Innings" party takes place at the King Street Garage, 174 King Street in San Francisco (across the street from Pac Bell Park) and is the love child of Sweet Pea, I'm told.

The event benefits the SFGSL

2001 World Series, the Stop AIDS Project, and the Women's Bay Area Athletes at Gay Games. Come and dance the night away with DJ Phil "B" from 10 p.m. to 4 a.m. Cost: \$15 @ door, \$10 with World Series ID.

Tuesday, August 14 is the date of festive Opening Ceremonies at the Marriott Hotel, Santa Clara, and August 16 is the talent show & celebrity auction, at 7 p.m. All proceeds from the auction will be donated to various charities selected by the World Series Com-

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LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE NO. 250656

The following person(s) are doing business as: Doolittles. 2727 Market Street #302, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by co-partners signed George Leslie Freeman and Richard Shin. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, July 31, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 8/01/2001.

STATEMENT FILE NO. 250620

The following person(s) are doing business as: SF Handyman. 2753 Bryant Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Darrel Nystrom. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, July 31, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 7/31/2001.

STATEMENT FILE NO. 250628

The following person(s) are doing business as: Perfect Moving, Jili Moving. 2442 34th Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94116. This business is conducted by an individual signed Duoji Han. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 7/31/2001.

AUG. 9, 16, 23, 30, 2001

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE

To Whom It May Concern: The Name of the Applicant is: East West Pacific Inc. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverages Control at: 185 Berry Street, Suite #5600 San Francisco, Ca. 94107, to sell alcoholic beverages at: 3253 Mission Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. Type of license Applied for:

41-ON SALE BEER AND WINE EATING PLACE
AUGUST 9, 2001

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: CASE NUMBER: C-01-02771

Morris H. Jacobs, deceased; Jay B. Jacobs, deceased, Executor of the Estate of Morris H. Jacobs; Testate and Intestate Successors of Morris H. Jacobs, deceased; All Persons Unknown, claiming any legal or equitable right, title, estate, lien or interest in the property described in the complaint adverse to Plaintiff's Title, or any clouds on Plaintiff's Title thereto, and Does 1-10, inclusive
YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: OAK HILL PARK COMPANY

You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons is served on you to file a typewritten response at this court. A letter or phone call will not protect you; your typewritten response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case.

If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case, and your wages, money and property may be taken without further warning from the court. There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may call an attorney referral service or a legal aid office (listed in the phone book).

The name and address of the court is: Superior Court, Contra Costa County, 725 Court Street, Martinez, Ca. 94553. The name, address, of plaintiff's attorney, is: Denise E. Chambliss (SBN 188390) Doyle & Associates 1820 Bonanza Street, Suite 201, Walnut Creek, Ca., 94596
JULY 26, AUG. 2, 9, 16, 2001

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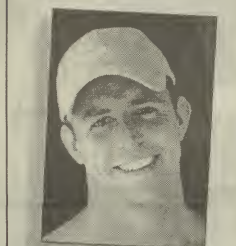
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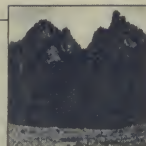
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Spoiled by the greats of the musical
Tony Award-winner Donna McKechnie
opens 'Inside the Music' at the Alcazar.
page 29

Balk like an Egyptian
Memo to 'Aida's Pharaoh:
Let our people go (to exits)!
page 28



Rocky mountain high
SFMOMA's 'Ansel Adams
at 100' peeks at peaks.
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 31 • No. 32 • 9 August 2001

Olivier Ducastel and Jacques Martineau, lovers and 'The Adventures of Felix' co-directors



Two for the road

by Robert Julian

Olivier Ducastel and Jacques Martineau are on a winning streak. Their first two films as writer-directors, *Jeune et Perfect* and *The Adventures of Felix*, both received American distribution, a rare honor for French-language films. *Felix*, their current release, tells the fictional story of a young gay man of Arabic descent (Sam Bouazizi) who sets out on a journey to find his father. As he moves from the north to the south of France, he encounters a variety of strangers who come to represent the family he does not have.

One of those strangers, the "cousin," provides Felix with a brief but memorable sexual encounter. And although there is only a moment of male frontal nudity, it seemed a shame to let it pass without comment. Seated on a sofa at the Savoy Hotel, this charming gay couple laughs heartily as I immediately get to the meat of the matter.

Robert Julian: When you cast Philippe Garziano as "the cousin," did you know what a big, fat penis he has?

Jacques Martineau: Yes.
Olivier Ducastel: No.

Jacques, you knew, but Olivier did not? There must be a story here.

JM: Well, in that shoot, that's the, he was naked.

OD: Yes, but I think you can just see his ass.

JM: So, well we didn't know but you can see it in his face.

OD: Yes, he looks like the kind of man who has, well...

So you were hopeful when you cast him?

JM: Yes.

Did you have the nude scene in mind from the beginning?

JM: Yes, it was written just as it appears in the movie. We were shooting

page 32 ►

Olivier Ducastel (left) and Jacques Martineau (right) at this year's San Francisco International Lesbian & Gay Film Festival.

Jane Philomen Cleland

'Save It for the Stage: The Life of Reilly' opens at the New Conservatory Theatre Center

Charles Nelson, really

by Richard Dodds

Charles Nelson Reilly never came out of the closet. How could he? He is closetless.

"If anyone didn't know I was gay, there must be something wrong with them," said the actor, director, teacher and game-show staple. "But I was never a gay person. There are just too many labels in the world."

Nevertheless, the irrepressible Reilly is in town to perform his autobiographical one-man show as part of the New Conservatory Theatre Center's season of gay-themed attractions. This is the first time *Save It for the Stage: The Life of Reilly* has been done at anything other than a general-audience theater.

"I'm not a gay activist," Reilly said in his distinctive raspy whine. "I'm a gay passivist." But he thinks that just by being himself, which means being obvi-

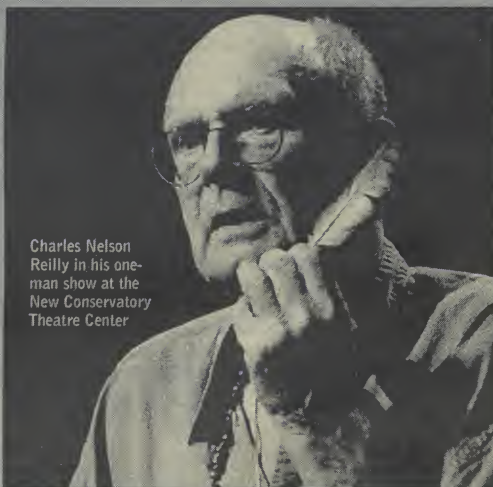
ous, has made its own statement. "Ellen DeGeneres and all that," he growled, "I don't believe in that. I think that so many people choose gayness as a reason to be thwarted or hurt. I never made a big deal about it."

Reilly has been partnered with Patrick Hughes, who designed the set for his one-man show, for more than 20 years, but Reilly isn't clamoring for official recognition of the union. "What we have is beyond legal," he said.

Reilly is 70 (and not an exactly young 70), and after he shambled into the theater for an interview, he broke into a coughing fit that an inhaler finally subdued. "I've got two artificial hips and asthma," he said. "But I keep going on despite the rumors that I've been dead for years."

Reilly knows every joke that he's been made the butt of, and he if doesn't, he's eager to hear about it.

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Charles Nelson Reilly in his one-man show at the New Conservatory Theatre Center

Gary Campbell

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by Roberto Friedman
 and Conrad Hilton

That British hussy **Bridget Jones** can go baste herself, because *Out There* keeps a diary, too! Our daily journals are not usually for publication, but hey, in the deepest, doggiest days of summer, when everybody's either outa town or outa their minds, these notes will just do.

7/30/01

6 p.m. Nob Hill. Give proofs of the week's ish the once-over sitting on a bench in Huntington Park. Scribble correx, nibble one low-fat chocolate chip/granola bar. We hear there's some glamorous benefit going on across town.

7 p.m. At gym in the Fairmont. Health-club syndicate seems to be having an anniversary party: fruit juice, cookies, "cocktail party" crowd milling about in workout gear by the front desk. OT passes on nutrients, finding nothing with which to spike the Gatorade.

In the exercise room proper, we have good row, good sweat. Sauna: hot. Steam: hotter. Jacuzzi: hottest.

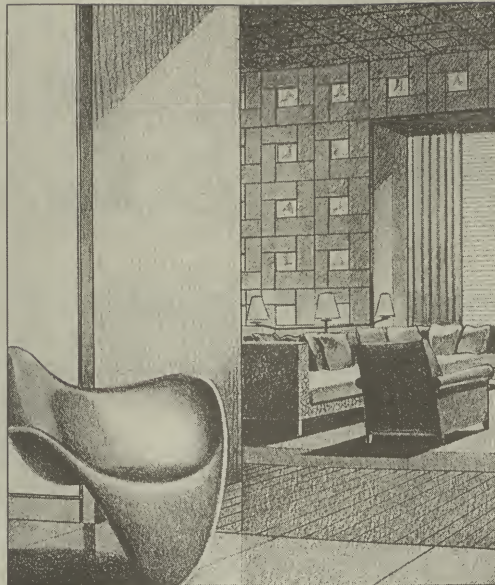
8 p.m. Dip into Tonga Room, see who's here on account. Eat only the cashews in a nut bowl. Rainforest attraction apparently on arid setting. Traveling salesmen, conventioners, and we're outa there.

8:30 p.m. Festa Italiana at the Top of the Mark. Italian food, wine, music, gregarious people from Italian Cultural Center. Jazz vocalist **Sergio Caputo** vocalizes. Get into spirited debate with one **Mr. Macho** on virtues of new, world-class de Young Museum design (he sees none). Dear diary, why is Mr. Wrong always Mr. Here Right Now?

11 p.m. Cable car home. Freezing July wind. Ciggy count: 0. Alcohol count: Few glasses, vino. Calorie count: What's Italian for humungous?

7/31/01

9 p.m. Reopening party for the new Clift Hotel under the direction of hotelier **Ian Schrager** and



Dear diary: What are we doing in the lobby of the Clift Hotel?

designer **Philippe Starck**. Celebrities, socialites, attitude. OT is there mainly to see whether new management has irrevocably mucked up the Redwood Room, which, prior to rehab, was hands-down the most handsome bar in downtown SF. Good news: redwood paneling still up. Bad news: baby grand piano gone, faux **Gustav Klimt**s replaced by creepy video "portraits." Once classic and sophisticated, the RR is now young, chic, hip — and dated in about three years.

Find "sweet spot" in room for *h'ors d'oeuvres* that pass in the night. Most attractive men at party = staff. Tall, dark, cheekbones working the door wishes us a good night "sir." Scare quotes ours or his? Alcohol ct.: Up there. Calories ct.: Available upon request (many small pieces of seared ahi tuna do add up). Cigs: 0.

8/1/01

10:30 a.m. Preview of new **Ansel Adams** show at SFMOMA. Guest curator **John Szarkowski** at press conference: "If you have any questions, I'll do my best either to answer them or evade them." Humor and candor — the art world sure is changing.

Noon. SFMOMA press lunch in Schwab Room. Museum announces monthly film series w/SF Film Society, to begin this fall. Curators tease us w/riches to come: **Eva Hesse**, **Ellsworth Kelly**, Yes, **Yoko Ono** (all '02)! Alcohol ct.: Curiously small glass, vino. Calories: Tasteful buffet, moderate. Cigs: 0.

2:30 p.m. Pool: half-hour laps. Sauna. Rubdown (horizontal).

8/2/01

8 p.m. Green Party party at CellSpace. Supervisor **Matt Gonzalez** is charismatic, idealistic, and even beefier in person than in his pics! OT winks at him from our inelegant perch on the floor. Is it our overactive imagination, or does MG wink back? Folksinger **Garrin Benfield** plays two kick-ass sets to jolly Green cheers. Benfield is da bomb.

Later, packs of cute, young, e-addled ravers arrive, do def moves on dancefloor. One boy, glowsticks tied into his lace-tops, breakdances up a storm. Alcohol units: 0 Cig units: 0 Democratic guilt units: 9.

8/3/01

6:30 p.m. Dinner at Hayes St. Grill with first-time author **Alex Sanchez**. His novel *Rainbow Boys*, the story of a love triangle among three gay teenage boys, is due out this fall from Simon & Schuster. Should push the envelope, but Sanchez says he does not want to go on *Nightline* and debate the Christian Wrong.



Klingon alert, Captain!

8 p.m. Disney *Aida* opens at the Orpheum. Enduring mystery: why are all the **Ancient Egyptians** dressed in costumes that suggest an invading **Klingon** army from *Star Trek*?

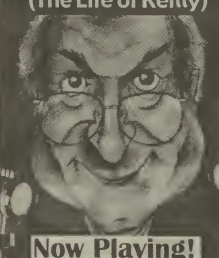
11 p.m. *Aida* opening-night party at Hotel Monaco. Brush past hunky Radames **Patrick Cassidy**. He has changed into evening wear that does not expose his formidable pecs and abs, unlike 99% of the outfits he wears in the show.

The Monaco is glamorous with theater people tonight. Doesn't it seem as if *Out There* spends an inordinate amount of time socializing in downtown hotels where we are not registered guests? Just exactly what profession are we in, anyway?

Alcohol units: 2 "Blue Niles" — peach-infused vodka, blue curaçao and pineapple juice — which sounds like a drink the pep-rally committee of the high school cheerleading squad might have invented, but tastes pretty darn good. Cigarette units: 0 — but then, we don't smoke. ▼

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Pyramid scheme

Elton John and Tim Rice do 'Aida'

by Richard Dodds

Most theater people can tell you the moment they saw their destiny. And often it happened when they saw a musical as a child. Sometimes it's one of the greats like *Gypsy*, *West Side Story*, or *A Chorus Line*, but many of these stories focus on also-rans that still had the power of theatrical enchantment.

It is unlikely that in 10 or 20 years anyone will be citing Disney's *Aida* as the epiphanic moment that inspired a career. This may seem an oblique criticism of the touring musical currently at

the Orpheum, but it may help identify why this slick attraction fails to sustain any sort of fire. Vicariously speaking, I wouldn't want to be anybody on that stage.

Which is not to say there aren't good performers on the stage. At least one, the single-named Simone as Aida, commands attention with a performance that is both severe and magnetic, and with an electric voice that can probably be heard on BART trains as they pass under the theater.

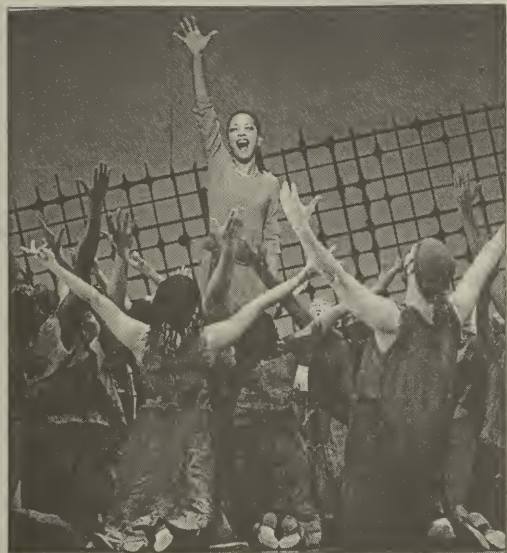
But the show itself, a Broadway hit despite downbeat reviews, finds little momentum in its collection of scenes that may occasionally spark interest. Many

hands went into creating *Aida*, which faced a major overhaul after a failed pre-Broadway run in Atlanta, and a corporate haze hangs heavy over the stage.

Based on the same ancient Egyptian legend that inspired Verdi's opera 130 years ago, the story has been given a contemporary kick. Bob Crowley's costumes are a mix of old and mod. Wayne Cilento's dance moves are more hip-hop than King Tut. And Elton John and Tim Rice's score is, well, unmistakably of the John.

The first version of the libretto, by *Beauty and the Beast*'s Linda Woolverton, was goosed up by director Robert Falls and *M. Butterfly* playwright David Henry Hwang, and the final results heavily layered on all sorts of contemporary sociology to the ancient story. The musical has a social conscience by committee.

By casting the oppressive Egyptians with white actors and the noble, enslaved Nubians with black actors, the show scores its kneejerk points without having to dig deep. *Aida* is a Nubian princess captured by the Egyptians who catches the eye of an Egyptian general slightly more humane than his cruel colleagues. The love affair that ensues brings about predictably tragic results,



Simone as Aida in the slick attraction at the Orpheum Theatre.

though the musical's contemporary framing device manages to pull off a belated happy ending.

Simone's powerful performance at *Aida* is unfortunately not matched by Patrick Cassidy as Radames. Cassidy, a weak performer without a compensatory hunkiness, looks more like a janitor than a general in his red jumpsuit. With comic shrillness, Kelli Fournier provides comic relief as the Pharaoh's anachronistically

valley-girl daughter.

Aida is part cartoon, part drama that aspires to a social seriousness which isn't earned. In that, it is less noble than a slice of mindless entertainment that really knows how to touch an audience. ▼

***Aida* will run at the Orpheum Theatre through Sept. 1. Tickets are \$22.50-\$76.50. Call 512-7770.**

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Jukebox accident 'Do Re Mi' at Eureka Theatre

by Richard Dodds

It's hard to believe that just a year after Jule Styne composed *Gypsy*, in which every song is memorable, he wrote *Do Re Mi*, in which hardly any song is. The single exception is "Make Someone Happy," which arrives with the random happenstance of a song on a jukebox.

In fact, this jerrybuilt 1960 musical is about the jukebox business, at least until librettist Garson Kanin forgets that fact, and it seems to exist in a world in which *Oklahoma!*, *Carousel*, *West Side Story* and *Gypsy* never happened. Created as a vehicle for Phil Silvers, it survived for a year on his goodwill before disappearing from the planet for 40 years.

Last year, the *Encores!* series in New York dusted it off, and with Nathan Lane investing his considerable *shtick* in the Silvers role, charms were again found in the musical's cheesy ways. Unfortunately, 42nd Street Moon has no



Richard Pardini, Bob Greene, and Christian Cagigal in *Do Re Mi*

Silvers or Lane to save the day, and the results are rather desultory in director Dyan McBride's production. (Is it my imagination, or have 42nd Street Moon productions been backsliding in quality in the past year?)

Bob Greene, who made for a perfectly acceptable Fiorello a couple of years ago, doesn't have the kind of wiseguy charm to inflate this role tailor-made for Silvers. Greene is at his best when he's not trying too hard to be funny, and "All of My Life," an introspective aria reminiscent of "Rose's Turn" from *Gypsy*, finds him at his best.

Greene plays Hubie Cram, a schemer with an aversion to work and a wife who is growing weary of her husband's irresponsible ways. Kay Cram is an underwritten role of thankless predictability that Nancy Walker presumably enlivened in the original produc-

tion but that Lisa Peers does not in this production.

Somewhat more appealing is the perfunctory young-lovers subplot, thanks to performers Patrick Leveque and Jessica Jackson. Leveque has a respectable voice as a music executive, and if this well-favored actor is still a mite callow to be playing a seasoned roué, he is at least in the right ballpark. Jackson, as a singing discovery, has a pleasing voice and an invitingly quirky matter. It's too bad she's been outfitted in such a frumpy manner.

There can be gold in Broadway's dross, but the trick is in how to mine it. In this case, 42nd Street Moon has not struck it rich. ▼

***Do Re Mi* will run at the Eureka Theatre through Aug. 19. Tickets are \$15-\$25. Call 255-8207.**

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Gotta sing, gotta dance

Donna McKechnie plays the Alcazar

by Richard Dodds

Donna McKechnie used to think of herself as a "dys-functional Doris Day," someone whose cheery demeanor masked a peck of troubles. But now that the Tony Award-winning sensation from *A Chorus Line* has conquered many of her demons, she's decided to put them onstage. With Broadway as its planned destination, McKechnie's *Inside the Music* opens a six-performance run Aug. 15 at the Alcazar Theatre.

"If I had my choice I would keep it all in the background," she said of the travails of her life. "I use my singing and dancing as a way to avoid things — you know, keep singing, keep smiling. But I knew I had to go to a deeper place to make this more than just another light entertainment."

She talks about a childhood in which happiness was considered a sin, a traumatically unsuccessful marriage to *Chorus Line* creator Michael Bennett, and a depression spurred by an attack of arthritis that had doctors telling her she would never dance again.

But *Inside the Music*, which features just McKechnie with a three-piece band, is not only a cathartic psychodrama. Because her career has spanned four decades, the show serves as a kind of history of Broadway through a time of growth and change, and also as a Who's Who of many pivotal innovators in the musical theater.

She arrived in New York when the traditional musical comedy still held sway, making her Broadway debut in the chorus of *How to*

Succeed in Business Without Really Trying. She was there when Broadway found a pop voice in *Promises, Promises*, and when Sondheim began pushing boundaries in *Company*. And of course she was a participant in the creation and subsequent success of *A Chorus Line*.

"I was spoiled by the best," she said. "People like Bob Fosse and Abe Burrows and Hal Prince and Michael Bennett would always be breaking new ground, and they were excited about it every day. Today it seems to be more about marketing than risk-taking."

The musical numbers in *Inside the Music* include a sampling of songs from her shows, including "Music and the Mirror," her signature solo from *A Chorus Line*. "Nervy, huh?" the 58-year-old performer said with a laugh. "And I pretty much do the whole thing."

There are also non-theatrical songs that she performs because they make an interesting commentary on the various chapters of her life. Playwright Christopher Durang helped McKechnie structure the piece, and he molded her words and thoughts into a script.

Durang is best known for his absurdly comic looks at family life, and McKechnie said that's exactly why she chose him. "I felt that my family life was absurd in its own way," she said. "I started out by being this little student ballerina against the backdrop of a Calvinist Scottish grandfather. I wanted a writer who could be off-the-wall because it's insane to be raised like that."

McKechnie has been working on her autobiographical show for

five years, but it's hardly her only creative outlet. Earlier this year she starred in regional-theater productions of *Gypsy* and *A Little Night Music*, and as soon as her run in San Francisco is over, she is heading to Connecticut to star in a musical version of *Come Back, Little Sheba*. And then it's off to London for a concert version of a new musical about Ginger Rodgers and her complicated relationship with her powerful mother, the role that McKechnie will play.

When she has time, McKechnie teaches theater classes in New York. She likes to tell her students that "being in theater is a brutal career choice, third maybe to boxing and prostitution."

"It's my way of getting their attention," she said, "but I feel I have to let them know that you have to expect to be rejected on some level every day of your life."

"When I was younger, I would say to myself that I just don't have the personality for this. A few years ago I really had to look at myself in the mirror and be honest and say, 'What do you want to do with your life?' I wasn't working as much as I should, and I was very discouraged."

"And I realized that if I was going to stay in this world that I had to be happy with what choices I made, and I thought, forget about show business, you know, as a business. I just want to perform and sing and dance. I had to acknowledge to myself how much I really love it."

For more information on *Inside the Music*, call 441-4042.

Rhino stew

Theatre Rhinoceros will unveil 10 new short works of queer theater over the next three weeks.

page 33 ►



Backstage



'Today it seems to be more about marketing than risk-taking.'

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Songs of the South

Dixie diva Shane Kelly

by Jim Van Buskirk

Shane Kelly is one of the sweetest, most generous gals on the local jazz/cabaret scene. She has been performing for over 15 years in Chicago, New York, Africa, and Paris, in sophisticated supper clubs, and as a soloist with the All-Atlanta Gospel Chorus and the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra. Since she and her beloved husband Alex moved from the Deep South and settled in Petaluma in 1999, the entire Bay Area has turned into her tune-fest turf.

In addition to launching the ongoing Song of the Month Club at Martuni's, Kelly has enjoyed several sold-out runs at the venerable Plush Room, and has done her share of fundraisers, for the San Francisco Public Library's James C. Hormel Gay & Lesbian Center, TeddyCares, and other good causes.

Now this swinging, Southern sister is celebrating the release of her first full-length CD. Kelly refers to the eponymous album as "a dream come true," and she's pulling out all the stops on Sunday, August 19, 7 p.m. at the Cowell Theater in Fort Mason. Partial

proceeds from the CD release party go to the Oaktown Jazz Workshops which promote musical education and youth participation in jazz as an artform.

Kelly will be performing songs from the album featuring her seven-piece jazz combo. To showcase her considerable talents, Kelly has engaged Jeffrey Chin, whose astute arrangements and lush orchestrations are perfectly suited to her rich, warm vocals. Her smooth, husky voice meanders through many melodic moods as it wraps itself around such well-chosen jazz standards as the lovely and languorous "Lazy Afternoon," "My Foolish Heart," and "Love is a Simple Thing."

Just to spice things up, this fun-loving vocalist has included such unlikely cuts as the sultry "Ten Minutes Ago" from Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella*, the sexy "Come by Sunday" by Murray Grand, and Bacharach and David's seductive "The Look of Love." "It's all about love!" proclaims Kelly's liner note.

You can listen to several of the songs by going to Kelly's website, www.shanekellysings.com. Once there, you can also read what the media have said about this Dixie diva. You can also try some of her



Cabaret singer Shane Kelly

favorite comfort-food recipes for "Monkey Bread," "Ozark Pudding," and "Poverty Candy." By coming to the Cowell, you can hear Kelly sing her heart out, and then treat yourself to some Southern hospitality. "We'll hoot it up at the reception afterwards!" Kelly promises. ▼

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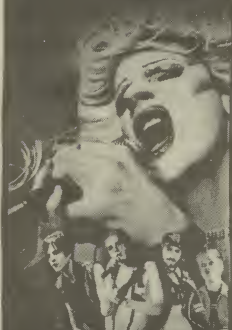
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A peak affair

'Ansel Adams at 100' opens at SFMOMA

by Mark Mardon

I like my mountains to look like men — rugged, hard-bodied, and a challenge to mount. When I see a peak, I see potential routes up to a dramatic climax. The more difficult the climb, the more orgasmic the experience. Of course, prior to any attempt at conquest, the way up must be carefully surveyed, so typically I accord photographs of peaks — whether in mountaineering journals or on the walls of SFMOMA — the same loving scrutiny straight men give pictures of *Playboy* models. While I'm at it, I also closely inspect the surroundings — the windblown trees, the ice-encrusted streams, the lichen-covered stones — as any man will do in the boudoir of his lover.

Ansel Adams has provided more mountain centerfolds than probably any mountaineering/nature photographer ever, and you can see them all nicely (i.e. conservatively) displayed at the SFMOMA exhibition *Ansel Adams at 100*, which opened August 4 and runs through January 13. The work was curated by a great eminence in the photo-art world, John Szarkowski, who was director of the photography department of New York's MoMA from 1962-1991.

In his prime, when Adams was most active in the outdoors, he brought a zest for mountaineering to his photographic work, and he consistently turned out images of superior technical quality — as pure, pristine and crystal clear as the wilderness landscapes themselves, as Adams demanded. He was a master technician, and the key to his success was not just in being the first to photograph a particular peak, but the one who captured the best shots of those peaks, and then developed his prints to the highest possible standards of perfection.

His forms are sleek, sensuous,



Bishops Pass, Kings River Canyon, 1936

seductive, and presented in all their naked glory at SFMOMA. Adams loved those Sierra Nevada peaks — I imagine as women, if he sexualized them at all — and worked tirelessly at capturing every nuance of their delicate, subtle forms. Seeing his original prints spread out with great dignity and formality on the walls of SFMOMA reminded me, for some odd reason, of classy peep shows where one views gorgeous body after gorgeous body, the display of beauty leaving you panting.

Mountains' majesty

At times I also like my mountains soft and willowy, warm and completely enfolding. That sort of temperament can only be come upon by chance in the great outdoors, and capturing it on film is an art of the highest order. Adams routinely captured that and countless other mountain moods, as well or probably better than any mountaineering photographer be-

fore or since. His name is revered in circles of mountaineering photographers, virtually all of whom in the past 60 years owe a debt to Adams. He, more than anyone except writer/naturalist John Muir, conveyed the character of mountains in a way that moved people both spiritually and emotionally, without hammering them over the head with religion. Especially in the early years of his long career, he was exquisitely subtle in his mountain portrayals; in his renderings, you could perceive traces of femininity and masculinity where others found only stone and wind-swept vistas.

The problem with Ansel Adams is that his work has become cliché and cheapened in value through gross overexposure. His images have spread widely among those who have little or no personal connection with the places Adams worshipped. His art is not abstract, it's enormously concrete, attempting to signify universal truths

through attention to specific places and objects. He, like Muir, treated the wilderness as a spiritual home, and mountains as cathedrals. He worshipped idols.

Adams was conflicted, like so many conservationists of his day. On the one hand he worked taking photographs for mining companies and other industrial interests. At the same time, he worked to preserve and protect the wild places he truly loved. His art developed to its fine degree because he was driven, as all mountaineers are, to conquer peak after peak, to be the first to a lofty place from which he could look out across creation and claim it as his own. But while his friends and contemporaries David Brower, Dick Leonard, Glen Dawson, and Bestor Robinson were making all the notable first ascents, Adams was making the even more notable — and enduring — images of the peaks being conquered.

To truly appreciate Adams, you must appreciate how difficult it was, especially in the 1930s and '40s, to journey deep into the Sierra, often with pack mules and a hundred or so fellow backpackers on a Sierra Club outing. You must be familiar with the old *Sierra Club Bulletins* in which Adams' work first appeared, with their quaint mountaineering essays and black-and-white plates. You must know that Adams tangled famously with his editor at the Sierra Club, David Brower, who was as wildly liberal and daring in his way of doing things as Adams was conservative and cautious. Together they rocked the conservation world, built a lasting environmental movement, and carried on the spirit of John Muir.

While I adore all the Adams images now on display at SFMOMA's big centennial retrospective of the San Francisco native's work (Adams was born here in 1902), and appreciate them being nicely organized in one section of the museum's 4th floor, in that sterile environment, they don't generate a lot of heat. It's hard to look at Adams' photographs there without thinking about the publishing/marketing decisions that have led to Adams' photographs being massively reproduced and disseminated for decades, so out of context — so out of touch with the wilderness realm that inspired them — that today they work almost as much as nostalgic kitsch as inspiration. ▼

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Bon voyage

Captivating 'Felix' at the Castro Theatre

by Tavo Amador

The road picture, from *It Happened One Night* to *Easy Rider* to *Harry and Tonto*, has been a film staple almost from the beginning of the movies. Seldom has the genre's potential been as effectively realized as in the French *The Adventures of Felix*, which was featured at the San Francisco International Lesbian & Gay Film Festival earlier this summer. This utterly delightful and captivating film returns to the Castro Theatre on August 10, running through August 16.

The plot, like that of a picaresque novel, is slight. Felix (the remarkably charismatic Sami Bouajila), 30, half French and half Arab, loses his job as a dockworker in the Normandy beach town of Dieppe. His mother has recently died, and while going through her papers, he finds letters from his father in Marseilles. The letters pique his curiosity, because he has never met the man and did not know he had remained in touch with his mother. He tells his lover Daniel (Pierre-Loup Rajot) that he wants to see what his father, this stranger, looks like. Daniel, a teacher, doesn't think this is such a good idea. Although he fails to persuade Felix against making the journey, he agrees to meet him in Marseilles in a week.

En route, Felix witnesses a murder. His attempts to get the police involved are unsuccessful, and he is threatened by the killer. He escapes, and the rest of his journey is far more pleasant. He fantasizes about an imaginary family, starting with a younger brother, then adding a grandmother, a cousin, a sister, and of course, his father. These fantasies are blended with his real-life encounters: one with the 17-year-old Jules (the appealing Charley Serue) in Rouen, who falls in love with him; with the elderly widow played with great warmth and candor by veteran French chanteuse Patachou; an erotic interlude with a hunky railroad worker (Philippe Garziano); a moving one with a woman (Ariane Ascaride) and her three children; and, finally, an in-

terlude with an older fisherman (Maurice Benichou).

Kissing 'cousins'

Although Felix is not an intellectual, he is intelligent. He seems so sure of who he is that people open up to him, telling him things that they have never revealed to anyone before. But these exchanges are spiced with humor, especially the one involving his "grandmother." Each encounter shows a different side of him, yet he is consistent in who he is. Felix has needs, but is not needy. The handsome, sexy and charming Bouajila makes Felix an extraordinarily likable character. He has a confident eroticism that is free of narcissism or arrogance. The love scenes with Daniel and with his "cousin," his sympathetic understanding of why his 17-year-old "little brother" is sexually attracted to him, and his way of dealing with the youth's advances

are highly erotic, yet warm and authentic. The perfectly cast Bouajila gives a remarkably natural and engaging performance. Fortunately, he is in every scene. His reunion with Daniel is so unaffectedly played that the viewer believes they are lovers in real life as well as on screen. The rest of the actors are also excellent.

Co-directors and writers Olivier Ducastel and Jacques Martineau deftly touch on living with HIV/AIDS, safe sex, and the charms and limitations of rural French life. Felix walks, hitchhikes, "borrows" a car, and takes the occasional train to get to his Southern destination, which affords the viewer a look at the lush French countryside in spring. The music, including two songs written and sung in French by Blossom Dearie, is terrific.

If you didn't catch this film the first time around, rush to the Castro Theatre to see it now. ▼

Philippe Garziano and Sami Bouajila in *The Adventures of Felix*

'Felix' directors

◀ Arts cover

in the middle of this field, and we told the actors that people would be able to see them from the road, but not to think about that. It was difficult for Philippe because he had just two days of work on the film, and this was the second day. But we met several times before shooting, and he said he was very comfortable with his body.

OD: And now we know why! JM: Yes.

Couldn't you have expanded his role to fit the size of his talent?

JM: That's what another French director told us.

OD: But sometimes it's nice just to have a little tease. We were surprised because here in America, it seems a lot of people were upset because Felix makes love with Philippe, whose character is a metaphor for his cousin. People seem to find it incestuous.

Well, we've all had those cousins.

JM: Some people said it was very French. But it's not really incestuous; it's perfectly legal to

Sami Bouajila gives a natural, engaging performance in *Felix*.

marry your cousin.

In our country, it happens all the time, especially in the South, where sometimes they're only 14 years old.

In your movie, Felix takes daily HIV medications, but this is only a small part of your film,

and it's almost never discussed. There is a great scene in the waiting room of a doctor's office where Felix and two other patients discuss their meds. The woman remarks that she is on only a two-drug therapy, and she wants to keep the three-drug or four-drug therapies for the future so she has something to look forward to. It's a very funny moment, but very touching as well.

JM: Yes, it's also somewhat scary, because she knows she may have more and more problems that will require other medications. It was a scene that was taken from real life.

Felix is what we call a road picture, and road pictures are always about the journey, not the destination. How would you describe Felix's inner journey during this film?

OD: His decision to search for his birth-father is a spontaneous one, made without much thought. He only really begins to think about it after he starts trav-

eling from the north to the south of France. He starts making decisions that delay his arrival in Marseilles, and unexpected things also happen to him along the way. These two factors combine to make him question his motives and maybe think it isn't necessary to see his father at all.

How long have the two of you been together as a couple?

JM: Six years.

Has being a gay couple had an impact on your ability to work in French cinema? Has it been a plus or a minus?

OD: I think in the beginning it was a minus, because people think it's weird to work with your partner, especially since Jacques and I come from different backgrounds. Jacques is from the teaching branch of film, and I'm from the technical branch. Neither of us was an obvious candidate for movie director. Some people thought I was using him, and others thought he was using me. And both of these things were true.

JM: And who cares either way?

OD: It worked very well. It was difficult preparing our first film *Jeanne* and *The Perfect Guy*, but we were very determined and united. Our producers were very skeptical, but those close to us were supportive, they know just how it works between us. Now I think being a gay couple actually helps us. People see us as one unit now.

JM: When *Felix* was released in France, we did so many interviews. It was obvious that many of the French journalists just wanted to see us. I think a lot of people who work in television think it's funny; we are a curiosity. We're the only gay couple working together like this in French cinema, or maybe in the world. It may not last forever, but right now, for some reason, people seem to like us. ▼

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**BLOW
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San Francisco



Goran Visnjic as Alek Spera and Tilda Swinton as Margaret Hall in *The Deep End*: she's not having a good week.

Over her head

Tilda Swinton explores 'The Deep End'

by Robert Julian

Every actor brings personal qualities to a role that complement, and often transcend, the material they are given. With Tilda Swinton (*Orlando*), the quality you can always count on is intelligence. It's simply not possible to imagine Swinton as a frivolous airhead or girly bimbo. And all of Swinton's native gravitas is required in *The Deep End*, a mystery thriller she carries on her pale shoulders with more aplomb than the material deserves.

Margaret Hall (Swinton) is a Lake Tahoe housewife who lives with her 17-year-old son Beau (Jonathan Tucker), two young children, and her father-in-law Jack Hall (Peter Donat). Margaret's husband, a naval officer, is away at sea when she discovers Beau is having an affair with a gay man in Reno. The film opens as the dutiful Margaret travels to *The Deep End*, a Reno gay bar, to confront her son's male lover, Darby (Josh Lucas), and warn him to stay away from her son. The next time she sees Darby, his body is impaled on an anchor, on the beach in front of her family's lakefront home.

Assuming young Beau was

somehow involved in Darby's death, Margaret moves the body to another part of the lake to deflect suspicion from her son. But just after the police discover the body in its new location, Alex (Goran Visnjic) appears on Margaret's doorstep with a graphic videotape of Beau and the deceased man having sex. It may be purchased from Alex for \$50,000. Margaret is not having a good week.

The Deep End is based on a novel, *The Blank Wall*, by Elizabeth Sanxay Holding. The film is written, produced, and directed by Scott McGehee and David Siegel with a minimum of banging doors and actors jumping out from behind curtains. As directors, they manage an even-handed tone which serves the subject matter well. But as writers, they create so many implausible plot turns, and leave so many holes in the story, that they undercut the good work of the actors and their talented cinematographer, Giles Nuttgens.

Margaret, who lives on one of the deepest lakes in the world, puts Darby's body in her boat and motors it to a nearby shore, where she leaves it in about four feet of crystal clear water. You can see the whites of Darby's eyes from the surface of the lake. Why an otherwise intelligent woman would do

something like this defies logic. What is the relationship of the blackmailer Alex to his partner-in-crime, and to the deceased? How did they come by the videotape, and how did they know where to find Margaret? And how will Margaret and Beau be able to explain their connection to the blackmailers in the final scene, when they are tooling around the lake in Alex's car?

The Deep End nicely diverges from the traditional mystery thriller in its depiction of the growing connection between Margaret and her blackmailer Alex, and in its portrayal of the mutual love and devotion that exist between this mother and her gay son. And it hints at the complex series of emotions a mother must confront when learning that her son is gay, knowing she must share this fact with an absentee father who is in the military. Yet despite the good efforts of the cast, the story sinks under the weight of its own implausibility. All the participants emerge from *The Deep End* with their dignity intact, but the overall result remains a disappointment. ▼

The Deep End opens
Wednesday, August 15.

Michael Haven.

Aug. 17-18 — *Last Words* by Jeff Carter and directed by Tom Bentley; *Evergreen* by Michael Kirk and directed by Michael Haven; *Womyn/Tete a Tete/Womyn Too* by Michelle Beyda and directed by Megan Murphy; and *Tonic* (a collaborative piece).

Aug. 24-25 — *F*cked...A Love Story* written and directed by Craig Osterberg; *Hoopla* written and directed by Tom Bentley; and *Freedom* by Jeremy Joseph and directed by P.A. Cooley.

All programs begin at 8:30 p.m. in Theatre Rhino's Studio. Call 861-5079 for more info.

Short scenes

• Ronnie Larsen's *A Few Gay Men*, which ended its run July 29 at Venue 9, has moved to Theatre Rhino. Most of the original cast will continue during the extension (through Aug. 19), though

Larsen has replaced P.A. Cooley as the repressed Jewish piss queen. Call 861-5079.

• The seventh annual AfroSolo Arts Festival includes *Ulysses' Song*, Kheven LaGrone's short piece about a young gay black man dealing with love, life, death, AIDS, popular culture, and commitment. It will be seen on a bill with four other works Aug. 22 - 25 at the ODC Theatre. Call 863-9834.

• Amy Wheeler's *Wizzer Pizzer* employs *Wizard of Oz* allusions in its look at a questioning gay man who tries to go straight by entering a boot camp, and at the lesbian who goes undercover to rescue him. The play, part of the 24th annual Bay Area Playwrights Festival, will be staged on Aug. 20 at the Z Space Studio. Call 263-3986. ▼

Richard Dodds can be reached at BARstage@aol.com.

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Backstage

◀ page 29

Three bills will be presented on consecutive weekends in what Theatre Rhino bills as a *Playwright's Stew*.

This is only the fifth time in its 24-year history that Rhino has presented a summer festival of new works. While past festivals grew out of the Theatre Rhinoceros Playwriting Workshop, this is the first year open submissions were accepted from around the country.

Joan Grinde and Megan Murphy are the directors of this year's festival, which features the following performances:

Aug. 10-11 — *HoMom* by Kevin Ottem-Fox and directed by Tom Vegg; *Cyclops* by Prince Gomolivas; and *Blind Date* by Michelle Paradise and directed by

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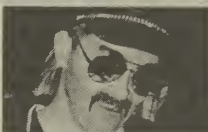


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Next: Ms. World Leather

by Mister Marcus

Women in the leather community worldwide are rejoicing in the news that a new female leather title — billed as “A different kind of event for a different kind of woman” — has arrived. Already nine contestants have signed up to compete at the Radisson Dallas Hotel in Dallas, Texas the weekend of August 31 through September 2. They will face judges SF Fetish Diva Midori, Charlene Baker of Alberta, Canada; Lynda Blakeslee of Austin, Texas, Sandy “Mama” Reinhardt of San Francisco, John Wirenius of New York City, David Hawks of Richmond, Virginia and the venerable Viola Johnson of Willow Grove, Pennsylvania.

The women who met the August 1 deadline and will be competing are: Ann Brown of Arlington, Texas; Annie Romano-Blas of San Diego; Lady D Harrison of Tucker, Georgia; Mindy Chateauvert of Washington, DC; Lynette Hadlock of Bixby, Oklahoma; Kay Prince of Panama City, Florida; Marilyn Zerquera of North Miami Beach, Florida and Jennifer Mork of San Francisco.

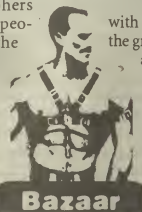
This “different kind of a contest” is not your ordinary run-of-the-mill leather competition. No fantasies will be performed, and there is already a \$7,000 fund in place. The winner will not receive a sash, but rather a “service shawl” similar to the one worn by the Mr. Toronto Leatherman, which will be the only thing the winner must return. The shawl will be handed down to each successive winner of the title — just another innovative aspect of this new title.

The judges’ interviews will be open to the public; and in another twist, there will be a judged open-interview with members of the press — photographers and all. Press and photo people who want to cover the event should contact me immediately (at HatchetQ@aol.com) for press credentials; include the name of your publication, frequency of publication, and editor’s name.

While the contest is open to all leather women, females with a proven track record in community involvement, fund raising, activism



Robert Davolt was chosen SF Leather Daddy XIX in the competition held at the SF Eagle on Friday night, July 27. With an activist like Robert, the community can expect a great year for the title.



Bazaar

with both men and women in the greater LGBT communities are at an advantage. Their stated platform should be a dedication for the 12 months of their year with the title to a given bonafide not-for-profit agency. It might be the PAWS agency, sexual freedom issues, legal issues, gay and lesbian veterans, gay and lesbian prisoner rights, breast cancer or whatever cause enhances the

lifestyle of our various subcultures, and even causes of the greater LGBT communities.

The winner of this new title will automatically become a member of the Board of Directors of Ms. World Leather, Inc. which assures complete interaction with the board in decision-making where the Ms. World Leather agenda is concerned. There will be no “you do this, you do that” stuff and waiting eternally for reimbursement for travel and expenses

next page ►

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Weekend August 10-12

New England Regional Drummer & Boy contests at the Boston Ramrod, with festivities all weekend. The winners go on to Florida in October to compete for the international title.

The long-awaited Leather-Levi Weekend run to beautiful Saratoga Springs with over 150 already signed up for the Inspirational weekend including bike and people events, workshops, demos, play parties. Congratulations to the organizers for this wonderful event.

New York’s Eulenspiegel Society celebrates their 30th anniversary weekend in New Jersey all weekend in a mammoth play space with the Who’s who of the BDSM tribe demonstrating, lecturing and playing. No contests here. For more info, check their website: www.tes.org for all the information you need.

Leather Pride week in Portland, Oregon with all sorts of events to stimulate your libido and including the Mr. and Ms. Oregon State Leather competition on Sat., Aug 11th.

Saturday, August 11

Cigar, dungeon and wrestling party at Castlebar. For info, call 970-9700, or check out their website at www.castlebar.com/cock.html.

Sunday, August 12

Beer/soda benefit to help raise some \$1,800 to have a giant Leather Pride flag made for the flag pole in Harvey Milk Plaza, for Leather Pride Week. If you want to see this happen, be there to support the effort from 1600-1800.

Wednesday, August 15

Underwear Buddies at 933 Harrison. Mandatory clothes check while you show off your unmentionables. For info, call 777-HEAD.

Leathermen’s Discussion Group at Club Eros presents, “The Doctor Is In” — not for hospital “scenes,” but how to deal with medical problems caused by your erotic play. A noted medical person will fill you in on all you need to know.

Friday, August 17

The SF Exiles never cease to amaze. This night’s presentation is on “(Human) Animal Play for Perverts” by trainer Ms. Zoe. Doors open at 1930, program at 2000. \$3 for members, \$6 for guests. Leave your “real” dog at home.

Saturday, August 18

The big Leather Ball VII in Toronto. For info click on www.leatherball.com.

POLKSTRASSE

Switchhitters score

by Sweet Lips

The recent *Switchhitters Variety Night* fundraiser event raised over \$6,000 towards the 25th Anniversary of Gay Softball League's World Series, coming up later this month. Great work, guys and gals!

Faux Girls is drag cabaret at its very best, hosted by Anjelica Devarox and Victoria Secret monthly at Marlena's bar on Hayes St. Check there for showtimes.

The two stars of the Cinch Saloon, Tim and Woody, will be celebrating a dual Birthday Party on Wed., Aug. 15 at 5 p.m. Can you believe these guys are each 40 years old? Neither can Lips.

Also on the 15th, the legendary Greta Grass will be celebrating her 70th at 2 p.m. at the Hob Nob Lounge. Old-timers will be present. Kenny Allison also celebrates on Aug. 15 — so many fabulous people on the same fabulous day!

'Til Friday at the Club Rendez-Vous is a drag show that's always different. Cockatiela stars with a herd of the wildest drag freaks in history, Aug. 9 at 10:30 p.m. and Midnight.

You could walk right past Kimo these days and never know it was him. He has an entire new

look — no more Afro hairdo — and he really looks great.

Honest Injun, Ann Dolyniuk is definitely hanging up her hat and will no longer be doing the AIDS Walk. During the 15 years that she has done the walks, she has raised approximately \$24,500.

Without the generosity of her friends, this would not have happened. To acknowledge this, Ann is

throwing a thank-you bash at the Club R-V on Aug. 24 from 5-7 p.m. Finger foods are being presented by Dennis ("Sushi & Tushi") Tyler. ▼

Cocktail Hour

Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

es, and no bickering about what is "acceptable" to attend or not to attend.

Enlightened women in the leather community have taken a keen interest in this event. It gives progressive women a voice and a platform to espouse causes dear to them, and an opportunity to serve as high-profile spokeswomen for deserving organizations or agencies doing public service.

There are plenty of women out there who do these things now, without a title, but the prestige of a universal leather title holder can only enhance an agency's visibility, which translates into donations and fundraisers — because one woman cared enough to put herself out there.

It is a concept whose time has come. There is much enthusiasm among women of the leather persuasion — even the Vanilla types. The media of England, France, Germany, Spain, Canada and even Mexico have expressed an interest in and have applied for credentials to cover this event. Women everywhere are completely enthralled with the concept.

For those interested in attending, the host hotel offers everything you could want or need, and the price is right. I have stayed there and can vouch for the efficiency of the staff, quality of the restaurant menus, and its proximity to metropolitan Dallas. If you want to learn more about Ms World Leather 2001, visit their web site: www.MsWorldLeather.com and spread the word. Tickets are going fast and excitement is building. And would you believe, the ratio of registered men and women is 50-50, so men are enthusiastic about Ms. World Leather as well. You read it here first!

The details: The entire weekend package is only \$95, and contest-only tickets are \$30. The rates at the hotel are an affordable \$64 per night. Call (214) 634-8850.

Elsewhere...

Over the past weekend, in far off Providence, Rhode Island, the Enforcers MC staged their annual leather weekend, featuring the Ms. and Ms. Ocean State leather and Ocean State Leather Boy.

Heather Chase, Tim Davis and Boy M] stepped aside as their successors were named. Ms. Ocean State Leather is Kate McGuire; Mr. Ocean State Leather is Nargrom Monceaux; and Ocean State Leather Boy is Kip Davidson. All three will advance to compete for the American Leatherman, Woman and Boy titles in Washington, DC next April.



Supervisor Mark Leno made one of his frequent appearances at a leather event, here with Mr. SF Leather Houston Davenport at the Leather Daddy Contest where he presented a Certificate of Honor to outgoing Leather Daddy Keith Truitt.

Torture can be a thrill

It has been surprising that there has been little or no dialogue about the Torture Exhibition currently on display at the Herbst International Exhibition Hall in the Presidio (at Montgomery & Moraga streets) The \$9 entry fee will treat you to a gaggle of medieval torture and death devices on loan from the Criminal Medieval Museum of San Gimignano, Italy. Consider the 10-foot wooden impaler, a metal-spiked interrogation chair, a classic French guillotine, and an iron chastity belt with breast pincers and tongs (for women). While repressive governments and religious regimes used most of the items, it's of interest to people concerned with such historical artifacts, and none of them are recommended for use at home. Open daily from 1000 to 2000 and runs through Oct. 14th. Take your camera. Perhaps Mister S and Fetters could improve/modify something for you.

Speaking of Mister S, the public demanded and they're getting new business hours effective immediately. Mister S will be open Monday through Thursday from 1100 to 1900; Fridays and Saturdays, 1100 to 2100 and on Sundays, open from Noon to 1900. And this month, they launch a new line for women into latex and rubber clothing and gear. A new line, "So Hip It Hurts," will be in a special new store right across the street from the new store. Get over there and check it out. Late evening shopping is now available for all.

Dot, dot, dot, dish

While no one locally has mentioned it to me, a very reliable source in Chicago emailed to ask me if it is true as rumored that the SF Chapter of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence will follow the lead taken by their Los Angeles sisters, and launch a "Mr. SF Sisters Leather" to compete at Mr. SF Leather 2001. I can't answer that question — yet. Does anyone else out there know?

Understand that some members of the Imperial Family are miffed that I, Mr. Marcus, would dare to announce that neither Ray Tilton nor Keith Truitt will be seeking the emperor or ducal titles the next time around. And that's final.

The Leather Archives and Museum in Chicago had planned to celebrate its 10th anniversary next weekend, but due to circumstances beyond anyone's control, the event has been postponed to an indefinite future date. Stay tuned for details as they become available.

Lost item

Remember Tony Chimento? He designed the prize-winning logo for the defunct Chaps Bar waaaaay back when leather people ruled SoMa. Well Tony was visiting here last and someone "accidentally confiscated" his leather jacket, a one-of-a-kind with a Tom of Finland drawing emblazoned on the back, depicting three leather-clad figures from the "Daddy and the Muscle Academy" poster. If you spot it or call Tony at (619) 294-9026. ▼

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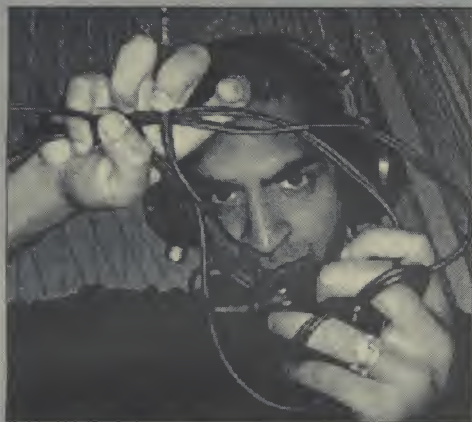
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OUT & ABOUT

Calendare by Mark Mardon



Karsh Kale (pronounced "KAH-LE, not 'kayle'), electronics whiz.

Asian fusion

The new wave in Asian underground sounds is coming to Stern Grove Festival this Sunday, and if you're at all progressive and worldly in your music tastes, you'll want to be there. I mention this gig in particular because the sound and the artists — Zakir Hussain, Karsh Kale, Ustad Sultan Khan, Bill Laswell, and Talvin Singh — are among my favorites in the electronic world-beat genre. They've influenced many a great local deejay, including our own DJ KJ (Keshav Jiwnani — not Karaoke Jockey), who spins some of the fiercest Asian fusion trance/dance sets you'll find anywhere in town, as does celebrated recording artist/DJ Cheb i Sabbah. Local legend DJ Logos mixes a goodly amount of this vibe into his Solstice Party sets (you can always catch Logos Saturday nights at Club 220). For the genuine live article, however, this concert can't be beat.

The presence of two of the world's most impressive tabla players lends special weight to the performance. Zakir Hussain's father, Ustad Allarakha, helped introduce the tabla to the West in the 1960s with Ravi Shankar. He shared a 1992 Grammy award for Best World Music Album with Mickey Hart for *Planet Drum*, and has collaborated with an impressive list of artists.

Karsh Kale (*Realize*, Six Degrees Records; *Tabla Beat Science: Tala Matrix*, *Tabla Beat Science: Tala Matrix*, with Singh and Hussain), born in the UK of Indian parents and raised in America, has lit up the New York underground with his DJ and live electric-tabla sets for his bi-weekly event Futureproof, where Indian classical, drum 'n' bass and ambient influences merge.

One of the most haunting Asian sounds comes from the sarangi, a multi-stringed instrument with an almost human voice. At Stern Grove, master sarangi player and vocalist Sultan Khan (who played with Cheb i Sabbah on the Six Degrees/Rykodisc album *Shri Durga*), will be on hand to deliver that unparalleled sound in its purest form, augmented by the ensemble's dazzling electronic wizardry.

Talvin Singh is a hot, hot instrumentalist and producer, and the personal embodiment of the Asian fusion style. A native of London's East End, with roots in India, he uses his classical tabla and percussion training to create an elegant hybrid of Indian bhangra and drum 'n' bass. He has worked with Björk, Massive Attack, Future Sound of London, and other leading artists in the world-trance sound.

The clincher for this concert is the awesome presence of Bill Laswell, who for more than 20 years has excelled as a musician (bassist) and producer, with some 300 albums to his credit. He has collaborated with the best, including Brian Eno, Peter Dinklage, Laurie Anderson, Herbie Hancock, Afrika Bambaataa and a very long list of world-music greats.

Expect a colorful assortment of people to turn out for the Stern Grove concert. You'll get the usual comers: the family crowd, clean as a whistle, fresh out of Sunday church; the music sophisticates, those who make music locally and are acutely aware of the influence that Laswell and Singh especially are having on world music's increasing popularity; and then all the trance ravers, young global sojourners who very likely have danced the nights away in India (especially in Goa) to sounds like these, who worship these particular artists and go way out of their way to dance to their groovy world vibe. ▼



Bill Laswell



"Cocktail Hat" by Jean Hicks, party of the ACC Craft Show at Fort Mason. See Friday.

Fri

Derek Silva Gallery

Opening reception: "Positive Art," a photography exhibit created by local artists living with and responding to HIV/AIDS. This year's show introduces digital imagery along with traditional photography. Program head Bob Corti, a photographer and visual-art teacher, says this year's event features some of the most beautiful works he's ever seen. Partial proceeds benefit local AIDS organizations. Refreshments served. Free. 4:30-7pm. 1594 Market St. (at Franklin).

Metropolitan Community Church

"DIVA-ersity," a talent contest and auction hosted by Michael Cronin and Ma Penny (Rick McCormack), featuring performances by members of the church and other local talent. A fun-filled evening of good-natured competition. Small prizes will be bestowed on the best "Divas" in several categories: classical, pop, dance and more. Funds raised will go toward community outreach, social service, and educational programs run by MCC-SF and its Foundation, including showers for the homeless at Mission High School, Simply Supper (a meal program for homeless and low-income neighbors, classroom volunteers and instructors for elementary school reading and choral music programs at the Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy, and holiday gifts and school supplies for children on public assistance. MCC-SF is a Christian family welcoming all people. Rev. G. Penny Nixon is senior pastor. \$10. 8-10pm. 150 Eureka St. Talent participation: call Mike Craven, 845-1162.

Two of Hearts Studio

Opening reception: "S. Brett Kaufman: Icons." Through intricate, imaginative collages, Kaufman portrays icons of those who have influenced his

life: Marilyn Monroe, Jackie Onassis, Vincent Van Gogh and Harvey Milk among them. He states: "My wish, through the photographic medium, is to cut-and-paste, sculpt, retell and sometimes reinterpret the story of those whom I never met." Music for the opening provided by Lamb Chop. Sponsored by BarsToClub.com, Blavod, and Perrier. Kaufman lives in the Castro with his partner Joe Casserly and cat Scout. He has exhibited far and wide since 1990. Free. 6-9pm. 4147 19th St. (at Collingwood). Info: 864-5551.

Studio @ Rhino

Theatre Rhinoceros presents "Playwright's Stew," a three-week festival of new queer works. More than 50 young artists, writers, directors and actors will be taking part in this showcase of one-act plays, scenes, monologues and performance pieces. The festival is directed by Joan Grinde and Megan Murphy. \$10 (\$25 for all three programs). 8pm. Fri. & Sat. thru Aug 25. The Studio at Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St. Tix/info: 861-5079; www.theatrhino.org

Brava Theater Center

Benefit performance/party: Teatro ARMonia and Brava! for Women in the Arts present "Zoot Suit," written by Luis Valdez, featuring young actors from the Brava Theater Academy. A dedicated group of Bay Area youth have created this piece to take a deep look into the history of racism and discrimination towards young Latino communities in the 1940s during World War II, while acknowledging its effects today. The play focuses on the lives of the Chicano "Zoot Suiters" in LA. With music, theater, spoken word, open mic and dance party afterwards. \$10. 5-11pm. Show runs thru Aug. 18 at 7pm. 2781 24th St. Info/tix: 641-7657, ext. 3; www.brava.org

The Marsh

The Marsh presents "The Carol Meyers Story (a comedic stand-up tragedy),

starring Liz White, written by White and David Brewster, directed by Andrea Devaux. In the tradition of Lucille Ball and Carol Burnett, white plays Carol Meyers, a phony, people-pleasing chameleon. \$15. 8pm Thu.-Sat. Thru Aug. 25. Tix: 826-5750.

Z Space Studio

First Seen, with Z Space Studio's New Music Theatre Project, presents a concert reading of *Burning Louise*, a work in progress developed by playwright Brad Erickson, composer Dwight Okamura, director Elaine Magree, and actors/singers Trauma Flintstone and Julie Queen. It explores the dangerous psychic link between a fugitive New Orleans photographer and a successful Palo Alto dealer of Asian art. \$5-\$10 sliding. 1360 Mission St., 3rd floor. Tix/info: 437-6775.

Fort Mason Center

The American Craft Council presents "The ACC Craft Show," West Coast edition, a weekend-long event featuring works by some 350 artists from around the Bay Area, working in classical ways as well as pushing the boundaries with unconventional mediums. \$8 (\$14 two-day pass). 10am-8pm. Also on Sat., 10am-6pm, & Sun. 10am-5pm. Herbst and Festival Pavilions. Info: 896-5060.

Sat

Center for African American Art and Culture

"Slammin' AIDS: Young African American Artists Against AIDS," part of the eighth annual AfroSoul Arts Festival. Featuring poetry, spoken word, dance, hip-hop and theater focusing on HIV/AIDS education, prevention and care in the African American community. Prizes awarded to first, second, and third-place winners. Free. 2-5pm. 762 Fulton St. (at Webster).

New Conservatory Theatre Center

Opening night; Bay Area premiere: "Save it for the Stage: The Life of Reilly," written by Charles Nelson Reilly and Paul Linke. Starring Reilly; directed by Linke. In this one-man show, the nearly 70-year-old Reilly, who had his humble beginnings in the New York Bronx, takes the audience on the roller-coaster ride of his life, from his first role in elementary school as Columbus, to his string of Broadway hits and television appearances, to his re-birth as a teacher, opera director, stage director, and writer. \$20-\$35. 8pm Tue.-Sat. 2pm Sun. Thru Sept. 9. 25 Van Ness Ave. (near Market). Tix/info: 861-8972.

Jon Sims Center for the Arts

AIrSpace artist-in-residence K. Grigorevic performs a workshop production of *The Whicness of Why*, a high-energy dance exploration of the three-way relationship relationship between a woman and two men, inspired by the movie *Splendor*. Grigorevic has worked in dance for most of his life. His background is 26 years in ballet, tap, jazz and Croatian Folklore, and modern dance. \$5-\$10 sliding (NOTAFOF). 1519 Mission St. (at 11th St.). Tix/info: 554-0402; jonsimsctr.org

Intersection for the Arts

Campo Santo and Intersection present the world premiere of *Shoppers Carried By Escalators into the Flames*, by acclaimed fiction writer Denis

Johnson. Directed by Nancy Benjamin. Featuring Alexis Lezin, Sean San José, John Polak, Catherine Castellanos, Luis Saguar, Michael Torres, Lisa Joffrey, Brian Keith Russell and Helen Shumaker. Original music by Marcus Shelby. Join the Cassandra family as they reunite in Ukiah for a wild, hysterical and terrifying ride. \$25-\$50 sliding (Thu. always pay-what-you-can). 8pm. Thu.-Sun. thru Sept. 2. 446 Valencia St. (btwn 15th & 16th). Tix/info: 626-3311.

San Leandro Community Church

Lavender Seniors hold their monthly potluck. This group for GLBT people over the age of 55 could use volunteer helpers of all ages to work with socially isolated seniors. 12 noon. 1395 Bancroft Ave., San Leandro. Info: (510) 667-9655.

ODC Theater

ODC Theater presents Jess Curtis and his company GRAVITY (physical entertainment), Bob Eisen and Jules Beckman in "Dances and Songs from the Road," a music and dance showing that caps off Curtis' three-week residency at ODC. Curtis has created and collaborated on numerous award-winning performance works known for their intense physicality, emotional honesty, and athletic beauty. Beckman is an interdisciplinary performing/recording artist, multi-instrumentalist, dancer, actor and teacher known for his infectious energy, athleticism and absurdity. Eisen is an improvisational dance aficionado from New York. \$10. 8:30pm. Also on Sun., Aug. 12. 3143 17th St. (at Shotwell). Tix/info: 863-9834; www.odctheater.org/theater

Concourse Exhibition Center

The 7th annual "Arts & Crafts - San Francisco" showcases more than 150 exhibitors and artisans, with vintage furnishings, pottery, art, books and accessories. \$8. 10am-6pm. Also Sun., 11am-5pm. 8th & Brannan St. Info: www.artsandcrafts-sf.com

New Valencia Hall

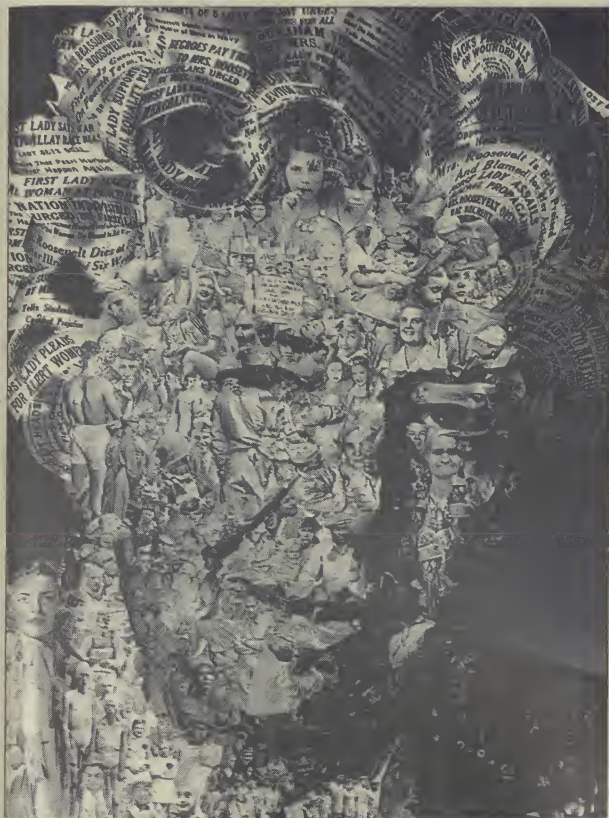
The Freedom Socialist Party presents Salvador Duarte, National Secretary of El Salvador's Transport Union, discussing "The Impact of Globalization on El Salvador." He will address how "free trade" is intensifying the nation's social misery. With a slide show by Moisés Montoya, Chicano advocate for immigrant, gay and labor rights, from his June trip to El Salvador. \$2 (Salvadoran dinner served at 6:30pm for \$6.50 donation). 7:30pm. 1908 Mission St. (near 16th St. BART). Info: 864-1278.

Noe Valley Ministry

FatChance BellyDance present a North African tribal dance performance featuring Amel Tafsout and Salah Dawson Miller. Tafsout's work combines elements of her native Algeria as well as ethnic/tribal/folk dances from the Maghreb, the Middle East, Africa and Cuba. \$15. 8pm. 1021 Sanchez St. (at 23rd St.). Info: 731-5539.

Grand Lake Neighborhood Center, Oakland

"Rap It Up!!!" A LGBTQ teen rap group designed to create a safe and welcoming place for LGBTQ teens to discuss issues important to them. Facilitated by Susan Kay Gilbert. Free. 2pm. 530 Lake Park Ave. (btwn Lakeshore & Grand Ave., near the Farmers' Market), Oakland. Info: (510) 238-2301.



"The Many Lives of Eleanor Roosevelt," photo collage, 1999, by S. Brett Kaufman at Two of Hearts Studio. See Friday.

SF Hiking Club

Join other outdoors lovers for a Stinson Beach to Pantoll Loop hike on Mt. Tam. Enjoy great views of the ocean alternating with the cool quiet of the Redwood groves. It's a moderate 9-mile hike with a 1,500-ft. elevation gain. Meet 9:15am at the Rockridge BART station. Club info: 487-6410; www.sfhiking.com.

Sun 12

Lesbians in the Visual Arts

"Figure Drawing Sessions for Womyn," an opportunity for artists of all levels of experience to draw inspiration from real-life models. Bring supplies and enthusiasm. \$5-\$10 model fee (NOTAFLOP). 10am-1pm. 870 Market St. RSVP at 788-6118 (drop-ins welcome). Wheelchair accessible.

Jezebel's Joint

Grand Opening: Vinsantos, Gregory, and Lu Read present "Transfusion," a gender-twisted evening of extraordinary queer entertainment and

trouble, featuring performances by Shawna Virago and the Deadly Nightshade Family Band; Vinsantos; Fudgie Frottage; Pippi Lovestocking; Derick Cowan; Rusty Hips; Bud and Chud. Plus DJs The Androgenous' bns Androids. \$6. 8pm-2am. Info: 282-5378.

Sigmund Stern Grove
Stern Grove Festival presents the artists featured on the album *Tabla Beat Science* — *Tala Matrix* (Axion Records). Free. 2pm. 19th Ave. & Sloat Blvd. Info: 252-6252; www.sterngrove.org

Mon 13

848 Community Space
QComedy.com presents "Monday Night Gay Comedy," hosted by Pippi Lovestocking, with a lineup of local queer and queer-friendly comedians including Blake, Amma, Angie Crass, and rousing closer Bridget Schwartz. \$8. 8:30pm (new time). 848 Divisadero (btwn Fulton & McAllister). Info: 541-5610.

A Different Light Bookstore

Broadway diva Donna McKechie discusses her return to the stage after battling near crippling chronic arthritis, and the creation of the role of Cassie in the original production of "A Chorus Line," as well as her relationship with director and producer Michael Bennett. Free. 7:30pm. 489 Castro St. Info: 431-0891.

Tue 14

A Different Light Bookstore

Mark Richard Zubro, the author of 14 gay mystery novels, will read from *Sex and Murder.com*, the sixth book in the Paul Turner series. Set in Chicago, the novel features gay police detective Turner and computer company billionaires getting more than they bargained for when they try to fulfill their sexual needs. Free. 7:30pm. 489 Castro St. Info: 431-0891.

The Stud

Is that Pippi Lovestocking co-hosting "Trannyshack," or an imposter? You decide. Come see your favorite Trannyshack stars get skewered at "Imposter Night!" Hecklina co-heckles the crowd. DJ Pinky Ring spins whatever. \$6. 10pm-3am (show at midnight). 9th & Harrison. Info: www.hecklina.com

Wed 15

Commonwealth Club of California

Ongoing exhibit: Works by Xavier Castellanos, a local gay painter who was born in Geneva Switzerland, where he spent most of his youth. He started painting at the age of four, later attending numerous painting workshops. At age 15 he and his family moved to Mexico City, where he had his first solo exhibit in 1985. His work has been acclaimed by many Mexican artists, including Jose Luis Cuevas and Raul Angulano. Castellanos studied at The Art Students' League in New York City from 1987-1990. Since 1985 he has done more than 40 one-artist shows and more than 50 group exhibits in the US, Mexico and France. Free. Mon.-Fri. 8:30am-6pm. 595 Market St., 2nd floor. Info: 552-2592; www.xavierart.com

Thu 16

St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church

In concert: Geraldine Walther (viola; SF Symphony), Roger Wiesmeyer (oboe; formerly of SF Symphony), Bart Feller (flute), Douglas Rieth (harp; SF Symphony), Charles Rus (organ; SF Symphony; SF Conservatory of Music), and Kristin Pankonin (piano). Featuring JS. Bach's *Prelude & Fugue in E-flat* "St. Anne," and excerpts from *St. Matthew Passion*; Debussy's *Sonata for Flute, Harp and Viola*, and Loeffler's *Rhapsodies for Oboe, Viola & Piano*. \$10. 8pm. 1661 15th St. (at Julian). Info: 861-1436.

Z Space Studio

Special Event: In anticipation of the opening night (Friday, Aug. 17) of the 24th annual Bay Area Playwrights Festival, The Playwrights Foundation presents "Coffee Cantata #1: When Is Enough Enough?" hosted by playwright Adam Bock, a roundtable discussion that explores the perils, pitfalls and possibilities of workshoping plays. A free-wheeling exchange of ideas for playwrights and allies. Free. 10-11:30am. 1360 Mission St., 3rd floor. Info: 263-3986; www.bayareaplays.org

WANNA SUBMIT?

Send your calendar event listings to:

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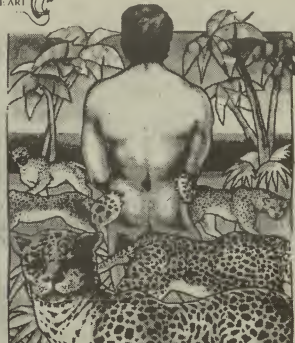
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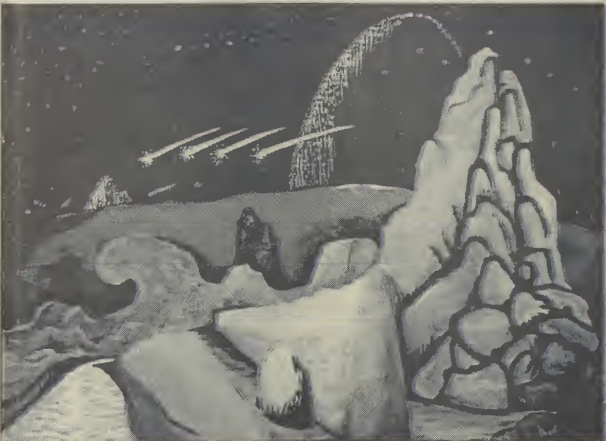
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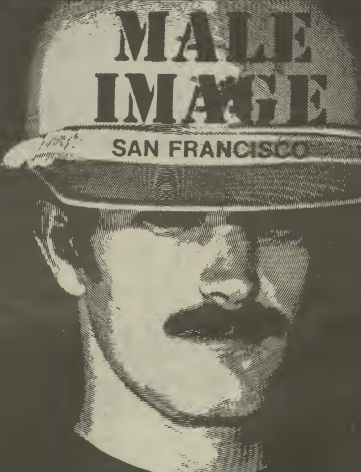


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"Nocturnal," acrylic on canvas, part of an exhibition by Xavier Castellanos at the Commonwealth Club. See Wednesday.



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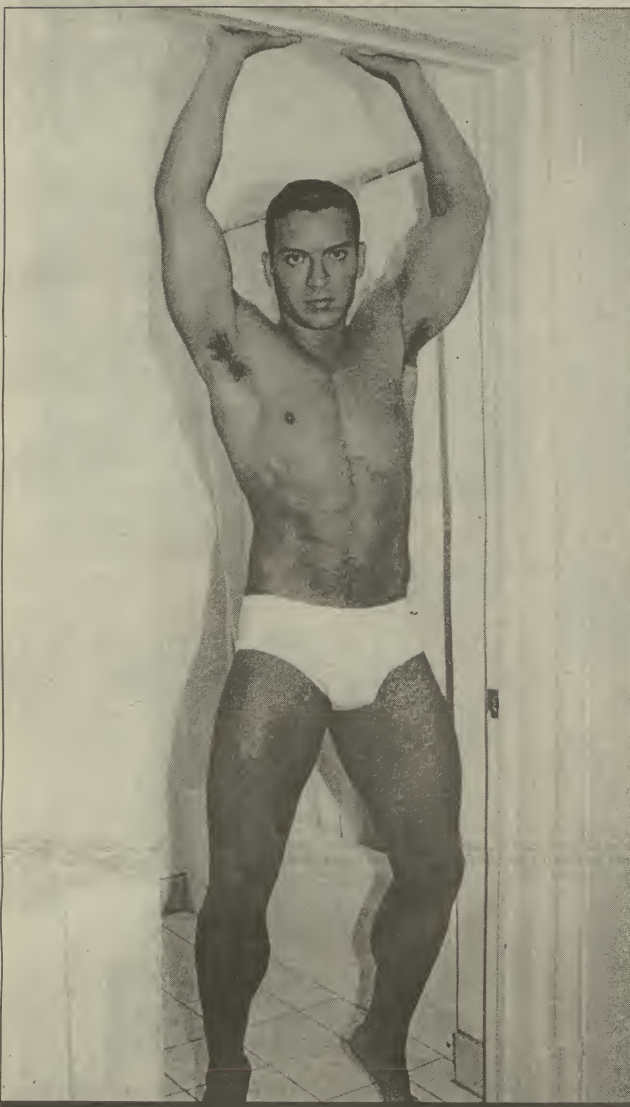


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PARTING GLANCES

"You Are Sooo Cute!" I Said As...
I stood next to your seat on F Market Line 6/24 Sun afternoon. I got off, at Powell. You blew me a kiss! Let's talk! ☎ 71439

Officer Bill
Pride Parade 6/24. We spoke a few times. You, getting your wisdom teeth pulled. Me: offered post op drinks. Interested? (I am.) ☎ 71440

Gave You My Number At Reunion
You wore a white t-shirt, gave you my card. Montgomery St. Muni 6/26, you ask me about my weekend. Would love to talk. Call. ☎ 71441

July 1 Most Fabulous Story
You: Dark hair, purple shirt, white pants. Me: blonde hair, white sweater, black jeans. We checked each other out/ smiled several times. I think you're really cute. Coffee, drinks, dinner? ☎ 71459

Cute Latin Busboy
July 3-Harvey's Cafe Soma- Me Bk w/2 guys, girl eating. You have a beautiful smile & eyes. Missed opportunity to say hi, would like to meet you. ☎ 71460

June 10th, Supershuttle
You- attending friend's wedding in Africa via Amsterdam. Asked about Bernal Hts. Me business trip in Az. Discussed changes in S.F. Pleasant conversation. Coffee? Dinner? ☎ 71461

(Joe) Of Alameda, In SF...
We met at the gym. I told you how beautiful you were. I gave you my phone number. My dream is to hear from you. Your eyes were so intense. ☎ 71462

Sparky's Happy Hour 6/23 8pm
You sitting alone under "The Gay Johnnie Sign", me sent a beer over to you. At a dollar each, I'd like to buy you three more. ☎ 71463

Last Thursday Morning- July 12.
Where: Sanchez and 18th street. You: blond man. Me: tall, good build, WM, glasses. We spoke in front of your house. Let's talk again. ☎ 71478

Coliseum Airport Bart
From Powell street. Sunday, July 8, 10pm. Sat behind you. You spoke on disembarking gray sweater. Me: motorcycle jacket. Wanna connect on some level? ☎ 71479

N'Touch Sun 7/15 You: Slim Asian
N w/glasses and little stache & goat-tee, dancing w/friends. Me: tank top, GWM, playing pool. I like the way you move. You smiled back. Let's meet! ☎ 71508

Alan With Two Great Danes
I met you July 5th @ 12th Howard getting coffee. You caught me staring when you walked away. Been back looking for those blue eyes. Me 6'2", 180lbs. Tattoos. ☎ 71509

Asian, Black Gap T-Shirt N'Touch
Then @ Universe (7/14). Asked you to dance, but you were w/friend. Me: tall, blond, gray sleeveless t-shirt. Would like to meet and get to know you. You're cute! ☎ 71510

Ron, Club Asia Pride Week 6/22
You: White with gray shirt. Me: Asian with black tee shirt. We chat about Bangkok. Please call, I would love to see you again. ☎ 71511

AIDS Walk: Cute In Bof A Shirt
You were with Asian friend in Schwab shirt, I was sitting nearby on grass. We exchanged glances and smiles more than a few times. Let's talk! ☎ 71512

Elevator Going Down
On July 24 in my Van Ness Ave apartment building. You with a neat beard, me with a moustache. Sorry I didn't speak up. ☎ 71530

Peet's At Battery Appx 8am
About once a week we say good morning. You- grey hair, slim, handsome with winning smile. Me grey hair, tan, blue eyes, handsome. Possibly coffee together or more? ☎ 71531

Sexy Korean Bi-Stud Boy-Man
You're in my dreams, you're in my prayers. Hang in there, Sean. Many love you. Be strong! ☎ 71529

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

GWM Seeking LTR
Attractive 43, 6'4", 195 pox in-shape looking for a GAM 30 to 50 to date or more? I am low maintenance, no-nonsense, honest and easy going. Hobbies include traveling, cooking, foreign film, theater and the outdoors. Let's meet and see if we click. ☎ 71442

GWM Seeks GAM
Attractive, warm, friendly 36 years old GWM seeks 35 to 55yo Japanese, Chinese or Korean for dating. Gentlemen with glasses preferred. Please call. ☎ 71443

Sexy Top Seeks Hot Bottom
Masculine, passionate, lean, HIV-, GWM, 40, 6', 170lbs, is looking for an enthusiastic, in-shape (slim to muscular), HIV-, bottom, 25-45, any race for regular, intense, safe fucking. ☎ 71444

HIV+, Blacks, Latins, Puerto Ricans
Wanted by HIV+, blond/blue, 5'10", 160lbs. versatile bottom, 44yrs. genuinely honest & loving, in good shape, no fat guys. You be similar. I live near Chico, I'm willing to travel, please call me. ☎ 71445

Buffed 26 Horny Orlando Stud
Visiting SF July 20- Aug. 30. Looking for guys into rubber butt banging. You be: 18-36 buffed versatile, hard, and insatiable. ☎ 71464

Spanish Lover
Wild, Charming, Romantic, Scandinavian desires 24-44 Latin guy. Hot blue eyes smile, moustache. Slim, physically fit. 40. Not a games/bars player. Snugly. ☎ 71465

Chubby GWM 66 5'8", 185lbs HIV-
Brown/blue retired enjoys: sitcoms, walks, movies, tv, music, quiet time at home, conversation, theatre, kissing, cooking, hiking, hugging, N/S, N/D I drink. If you like these things, call me please. Be serious. No games. ☎ 71466

"Are You Out There!"
Me: 33, 6', 160# HIV- attractive, healthy enjoy movies, dinner and trying new things. I'm simple no drama, no drugs. You same let's meet. ☎ 71467

~Come And Dream With Me~
Health Haw/Filp 42 5'5" 145 smooth HIV+ btm. Seeking masculine top. For friendship, romance and hot nasty sex too. I'm good hearted, romantic, affection, sensitive but strong, responsible & relationship oriented. Great parts of life are movies, music, and traveling and great sex. N/S, N/D. So if you are masc. top-man in shape or stocky, built (tummy ok) 5'7" up and 35-50yrs. Let's cuddle and dream together. Sorry no games played let's leave them for PacBell Park. LTR possible. ☎ 71468

Seeking Life Partner
Professional Mediterranean man, 33, 6', 150, blk, brn seeks mature monogamous mate. Romantic, well travelled and communicative, seeking same. Let's build a life together. N/S, N/D no bar scene. ☎ 71480

It Just Might Work
Me: GLM HIV+ dark skin/ eyes/hair. I'm 33, 165#, 5'8" bottom wanted: GWM between 35-45 hairy. No drugs. Maybe long term relationship. ☎ 71481

U/C Boy To Train Not Tame
Demanding dad will train not tame serious submissive U/C man boy(s) your fantasies become our reality. Thru submissive become proud-loyal-tye-alive. Serious/only. U/C a must. ☎ 71482

Find Latin Man
Handsome Mediterranean looking 49, 5'7", 155 an in great shape. Artists, fun loving celebrates life. HIV+, sensual good kisser, vers.bottom. Theater, movies, outdoors, lets dine an more. ☎ 71483

ISO Regular Suck Buddy
WM 5'10", 170#, 7" uncult, HIV-, disease free, non smoker, ISO White, Latino, Asian, North Bay a plus. ☎ 71484

Lonely Cute 37 Yrs. Old Latin
Ht: 5'07 wt:155, brn skin rough look, but sweet versatile. Looking 4 GWM/ GLM/ GAM, slim, short small build. smooth, size no important. If interested call please. ☎ 71485

Chubby Chaser Alert
Hot fem bottom pussy boy, young 48 Caucasian- Latin musician in committed relationship with understanding woman. ISO, hot dominant HIV-top, under 40 for possible LTR. ☎ 71486

Fun-Loving GAM ISO Latino/Asian
For friendship, sex, possibly more! Prefer skinny to slim, age not important. I'm 5'7", 129, easy going with a big heart. Love foreplay, kissing, cuddling & sensuous touch. ☎ 71487

Horny Old Fart Seeks Similar
SF GWM 65, 6, 176 HIV- into J/O, nips, cock sucking and rimming seeks similar in the City. Prefer wt, ht, at least, somewhat proportional. ☎ 71513

Life Is Very Short I Am Very Hungry
& for true relationship. Me: 40yrs old, 5'8", 145# attractive slim, athletic. Japanese seeks GWM 45-55yrs old- must be honest sincere. Lots of humor for ltr/monogamous-oriented. You little chubby. Serious only. ☎ 71514

Looking For A Friend
Shy GWM 5'10", 165# in San Francisco looking for a companion in the city, to do things with. Enjoy movies, hiking, classical music, computers, dining out and your interests. ☎ 71515

Poz Bottom For 40+ Leather Top
Seeking ltr with in-shape leather top/daddy who loves cockworship, as-play, B&D, and taking care of his good boy. I'm 48, 6', 145, br/br, smooth, 100% bottom, HIV+. ☎ 71516

Regular Guy Seeks Friend & More
5'9", 145# swimmers build, nice chest wash brd, abs, tan, handsome very fit L.T.R. weekend get together in S.F. HIV- must be handsome & in great shape. ☎ 71532

Sexy GWM Masculine Top 48 6'
165lbs, passionate, friendly & educ. HIV+ work-out, ISO any race 28-48 bottom HIV+, work-out body, genuine, fun-loving NS, ND, no bar scene, let's talk. ☎ 71533

HIV+, Blacks, Latins, Puerto Ricans
Wanted by HIV+, blond/blue, 5'10", 160lbs. versatile bottom, 44yrs. genuinely honest & loving, in good shape, no fat guys. You be similar. I live near Chico, I'm willing to travel, please call me. ☎ 71534

Cuddly Fit Guy Sks Smart Asian
I'm 48, 6', 160, athletic, attractive HIV+/healthy, professional seeking trim, fit, Asian for dating. You're smart, happy, independent, and love to cuddle & kiss. ☎ 71535

I Love Older GWM
Attractive Asian male 50 5'8", 155# affectionate and caring, seeks clean shaven GWM over 55 for ltr. We are healthy and HIV-, we both need love and special person to share with. P/s call. ☎ 71536

SEEKING ADVENTURE

Seeking Asian Top
Under 40 cute smooth clean shaven for W/Bi curious goodlooking 1st timers start orally, end given you virgin bottom for your pleasure. ☎ 71446

Oral Massage, Muscle Rub
Complete oil rub down and oral release (no charge) to muscle boys who want tension relief, small endowment ok. ☎ 71447

"Just Shut Up And Ride!"
WM 36, 5'10" 195lb blond/blue muscle hunk, wants good looking masculine me to screw or be screwed, anytime. ☎ 71448

Beautiful Material Boy!
Intelligent, handsome, 29yo GWM w/hot body and class ISO wealthy, HIV- stud who is generous. I love shopping, travel, night life, conversation, the arts, hot sex, and valuable gifts. Serious inquiries only. ☎ 71495

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Spread-Eagle

Ex-wrestler now older at 44 still in decent shape. Tied to your bed for long milking sessions, I'll flex, writhe, sweat in response to efforts of your tongue & hands, turns ons: pecs, tits, hairy pits. Mutual great. ☎ 71449

Hot Horny Hung And Handsome

I like variety taller short sizeable cocks or horse hung top to bottom mutual oral sex or laid back service. Shaved cocks are fun too! ☎ 71450

Hairy Hung Uncut

W. male slim hairy 7ins, uncut 54yr HIV- seeks W male slim HIV-who likes to suck uncut cock and hairy ass. ☎ 71451

GWM Bottom Wanted

By smart sexy hot & cute GAM top 35, 5'7", 155#, great shape. Like to get rimmed, be slim or beefy. Under 45 with 7" or large. No fats. ☎ 71452

Hairy Ver Top Man Fuck Buddy

Gay or Bi WM average size/looking wanted. Me: GWM 150# 5'8" hairless; mid 40, 7" cut into dick, ball, ass, WS, clothing play & most other interest. ☎ 71453

ISO Rim Seat Service

Older hung daddy, solid tight bod small cute ass. Any age but must be extremely talented & insatiable. No beginners, no scat please. Long sessions A+. ☎ 71454

Expert Cocksucker For 3-Way

2 oversexed party n play sexpils, looking for 3rd for weekend pnp sessions. ☎ 71469

2 Uncut Men Masculine

Blue collar 8 plus looking for big and uncut for serious sex afternoons. ☎ 71470

Man To Man

I wish to have vigorous sex with another man in the early afternoons (best). I like it physically but open to all. Inquire. ☎ 71471

Cock Worship

After your gym workout I will service. You kickback, cock and balls sucked. Celebrate and enjoy your masculinity. You be between 20-45 in good health. Call me. ☎ 71472

"Good Dog!"

58, lanky, positive, mix breed wants deep throat suck hounds. 9" dick needs long service and nips too. Your place. ☎ 71473

The Glamorous Life

Gym fit young man in need of generous gentleman who can show me the good life. ☎ 71489

Fucking Only

Black male great body and uncut cock seeks smooth bottom for fucking on Fridays and Saturdays nights. HIV+, no drugs, hardcore, non-verbal, 5'10", 180#, 43. ☎ 71474

Homeless Sex

Want some? Market St. regular, hairy chest, hazel eyes & big shoulders, dark red facial hair, smooth small butt. Let's have safe fun, togetherness etc. ☎ 71475

Boy

Attractive, intelligent foot lover, 32 seeks naturally masculine/innately dominant men who enjoy devoted sensual attention to their needs. Prefer tall, good-natured dads with large feet. All calls returned. ☎ 71476

Honest, Sexy, Working GWM

40. Loves life, self, sex. Sense of humor? Adventure? Casual to committed encounters. ☎ 71477

I Want To Get Laid

Tall, GWM, 40's, bl/bl, bottom ISO hung top into anal play, nipples, and mutual b/f's. Race/age/build unimportant. Tall, hairy, uncut+-. No b/s. ☎ 71488

Tall Cute Blond Artist

Type needs support from generous man to get through some tough times. ☎ 71490

Top Seeks Latin Bottom

Built, trim, 6' 165lb. top. Athletic, healthy, HIV+, muscular top 47y.o. seeks trim, fit Latin bottom for cuddling and steady sex. ☎ 71491

East Bay Hot Latin

Looking for mature, sincere males for good times. Am mature, 5'8", 155, versatile, HIV+, as you must be. Your age/race/looks not important. ☎ 71492

Make Me Your Bitch

W/M 40, ISO macho man 325+ # tatts + very fat cock to strip me naked and have rough and hard sex, verbal abuse ex-con A+. ☎ 71493

Anonymous Deep Throat Head

Bi WM HIV- 40s dominant very masculine likes getting off down an expert deep throat in dark private places if your HIV- submissive in shape and hungry. ☎ 71494

Ride On My Bushy Mustache

Feel my tongue up your hot butt. Me: 6' 170, gym toned, brn, bl 42. You: hot and ready. ☎ 71505

Fisting Hands n Butts

I enjoy playing with an ass that takes my fingers and hands or toys, your place anytime. ☎ 71517

Brian Patrick Carmichael

Makes me hot. If you have his look/middleage, husky build, moustache, tell this hung, freaky Black daddy what turns you on. ☎ 71497

Be My Sweet Hairy Daddy

GWM, 42, 180#, romantic, 7" uncut, hairy, seeks extremely hairy daddy types 40-60 for romance and fun. Must be outgoing and affectionate. ☎ 71498

Seeking Another Healthy Libido

SPGWM, 42, 177/6', athletic, cute, hairy, br/br, clean, HIV-neg, strong libido, romantic & very horny, sks companion, WM, attractive, clean, hung & HIV-neg for blow & rim regularly in S.F. ☎ 71499

Butt Play For You

I want to look at, touch, squeeze, massage, tickle, spank, eat, pube & screw your butt. Me: GWM, 45, 6'5", 300lbs. You: GM (White, Asian, Latin), slim, nice buns. ☎ 71500

I Want To Watch

A younger guy getting stripped, humiliated, abused, or brutally f--d. I'm 48, trim, verbal, 5'10", 155. ☎ 71501

Spread Your Cheeks

E. Bay GWM, 52, ISO Indian or Iranian with hairy buns to be rimmed. No recip. No perfumes. Married, ok. Sit on my face. 25-40yr. ☎ 71502

Hairy? Muscular? Celtic?

Mature SF GWM with oral talents to please seeks masculine man of Celtic background 30+ (straight, married preferred) who enjoys kicking back for admiration and servicing. ☎ 71496

Offering Virgin Bottom

To smooth clean shaven Asian under 40 who's patient gentle experienced teacher to make me cry with pleasure W/Bi/M, needs slow pumping leading to hard pounding. Give it to me. ☎ 71503

2 Pnp Butch Men Need 3rd

Two hot oversexed men, 50' versatile and 57, ex-marine top need versatile or top for weekend pnp. sessions! ☎ 71504

Big Man- Big Dick- Great Ass

ISO smaller men with mucho cock to fuck my hungry hole. Any race-age. Safe only. ☎ 71518

Looking For Hairy, Uncut Men

Over 50 to suck off in my Noe Valley flat. Uncut only. I'm 48, ok to look at, HIV neg. Where are you guys? Bi ask. Straight ask. Call me. Very discreet. ☎ 71519

Weightlifting Nude

Have bench, barbells, dumbbells. Strip down, workout. Am 48, 5'9", 190#. You can participate or just watch me workout. ☎ 71520

Hot White Bottom Wanted By 9"

Big dick White top I'm 57yrs old 6'0", 160lbs. drk brn hair brn eyes, wear glasses. Big 9" dick love to fuck White guys under 40. ☎ 71521

Senior Seeking Service

Your knees, suck dad's cock, twist his nipples. Mine is 7" uncut, ready for action. What's yours like? Thick & cut? I'm interested. ☎ 71522

2 Hot Party & Play Sex Pigs...

Looking for vers. or top sex pig to join 2 oversexed men. GWM 50 versatile and 57' GLM top for long hot pnp weekends. Hot cocksuckers A+. ☎ 71523

Fucking Only

Black male, great body, uncut cock, seeks muscular masculine bottom to fuck on Friday or Saturday nights. 5'10", 180, dark, smooth, muscular, hardcore, non-verbal, HIV+, 43, no drugs. ☎ 71537

Shut Up And Ride

WM 36 5'10", 195lb blonde/blue muscle guy wants good-looking masculine men to screw or screw me - call anytime. ☎ 71538

Seeking Asian Top

Me 41, 6.1 1/2 GBM, slender, seeks Asian top for fun & friendship. ☎ 71539

Small Tools & Admirers

Do you prefer guys like yourself who are not hung? Social mixer being planned in San Francisco for men under 6' & admirers. ☎ 71540

Big 9" Cock Needs Hot White Butt

To fuck. Me 57 yrs old 6'0", 160lbs drk brw hair brn eyes glasses seek hot White muscle men under 40 who want to be fucked. ☎ 71541

Dominant Affectionate Seniors

WLM 45, 6' 160lbs. ISO dominant but gentle seniors who enjoy slow, sensual oral pleasure. Bearded, non-buffed, rustic-looking, kissers A+ no S&M, pain or gay scene. ☎ 71542

Take Off Your Pants & Jack It

With me. ISO dominant smooth h/w proportionate under 35 WM masturbators, for Porn Party Marathon Jackfest. Stroke, edge, rope-repeat with cute 31y 5'9" 151# GAM. Lube 'em up boys!! ☎ 71543

Latino Or Asian Men Wanted

Want too service Asian or Latino men front and back- lick your hole. Fun and friendly. ☎ 71544

FETISHES**Daytime-Asshole-Eater!!**

Get your asshole eaten by a pro!!! ☎ 71455

Like A Smooth Chest?

GWM, 38, smooth, fit and muscular, seeks bondage top. Really into being tied in tight uncomfortable positions and having my tits tortured. Safe and under 40 only please. ☎ 71456

Mature Handsome Xpert Sucker

Licking, sniffing-deep throat action. Ass, ball, crotch wiping-drooling. Fuck my stache/go-t mouth! Hairy-musc. 5'7", 160#, 50's. Tan body, hungry mouth-throat! Facial hair daddies A+. ☎ 71506

Playful Wrestling

Lean, tall, fair 42y.o. wants to realize wrestling fantasies with well-built, frisky G/Bi. Wms. to submission or just for kicks, for stakes or just rough housing. ☎ 71507

ISO Rim Seat Service

Older hung daddy, solid tight bod. Small cute ass. Any age but must be extremely talented, in-satiable. No beginners, no seat. Please long sessions A+. ☎ 71524

I Love To Lick Sweat Off Balls

And get them wondering when I'm gonna suck your dick so they can shoot their load. I'm amazing by the minute. Tease/tease/relief!! ☎ 71525

Slave For Owner

Straight slave seeks training as cock-sucking pain receptacle to sadistic men. Please allow it to serve sir! ☎ 71526

Pretty Boy Threesome Fantasy

H bi male 53, ISO pretty-boys (18-21) for threesome fun, 69, Greek, French, J/O, discreet, clean-sober, young, light. ☎ 71527

Nasty Hairy Top-Mature Bottoms

GWM late 40's 5'10" good shape seeks professional looking- suit A+. I'm into slapping a guy around, using a mouth-shoving off. ☎ 71545

Daytime Asshole-Eater!!

Get your asshole eaten by a pro!!! ☎ 71546

Bardex Needed

Mature and well built body builder needs regular and extensive bardex sessions. ☎ 71547

The Hottest Guy In Town

Even the hottest guy in town is not worth risking your life over. Always play safe. Wear a condom and never exchange bodily fluids. Remember, safe sex is hot sex!! ☎ SAFE

COUPLES**Latin Seeking Couples**

5'7" h, 155p brn skin medium muscular body. Versatile masculine, looking 4 slim, short, small build couples GWM, GLM, especially GSM- masculine looks. ☎ 71548

OTHERS**Workout Partner, Sparring Bud**

5'8", 142# hairy muscled skinhead NHB fighter ISO workout partner, sparring buddy. Private gym-weights, bench, heavy bag, ring, more. Let's lift, wrestle, box, fight. Work out nude? ☎ 71457

C O R D Tennis Player Wanted

By 49y. HIV+ man, for play, 2 or 3 times/wk either AM or PM. ☎ 71458

England

Couple, youthful early 50's, seek pen-pal guys, friendship/visits. ☎ 71528

"The Klubb, Nasty Open Minded Men"

If you would like to join "The Klubb" you must meet certain criteria: Nasty, muscular, open minded, masculine, toned & tight bod, good sense of humor. Btw 26-40yrs of age. Any race. Leave message, best time to call. Maybe you can join "The Klubb too"! ☎ 71549



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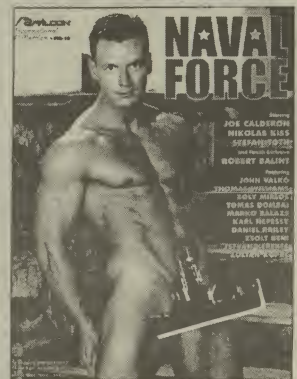
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Best Western

Ed Ruscha's collaborative printmaking is way above standard

by Will Shank

Acquisition of an Archive: The Graphic Works of Ed Ruscha
California Palace of the Legion of Honor, through October 7

Before Jenny Holzer sent electronic soundbytes scrambling across urban billboards, and before Christopher Wool used Words Writ Large in enamel paints as the subjects for his oversized canvases, there was Ed Ruscha.

A back gallery on the main floor of the Legion of Honor is jam-packed with just a few of the Ruscha treasures bought for the Achenbach Foundation for Graphic Arts of the Fine Art Museums by local philanthropist Phyllis Wattis. The grand total in the complete graphic archive numbers over 1,100, and some of the best are on view, displayed salon-style in many layers, on the four walls of one gallery. More extensive gatherings of his work have been exhibited previously in San Francisco. For those with long memories, SPMOMA (then SFMMA in Civic Center) assembled a retrospective, *I Don't Want No Retrospective - The Works of Ed Ruscha*, in 1982.

In a way, Ruscha (pronounced Rue-shay) is the straight David Hockney, with an Okie accent. He has surveyed the Southern Californian scene with the eyes of an



Standard Station, 1966, by Ed Ruscha

outsider ever since arriving there from his native Oklahoma in 1956. And like Hockney, he has both bought into the myth of swimmin' pools and movie stars, and still squinted at Los Angeles and environs through his ever-so-slightly cynical art. The aw-shucks image that he perpetuates in person belies the sophistication of his work. The artist says, "[San Francisco] is the most beautiful city in the world, and it is a humbling experience to have my archive there."

Some of his images are icons of 20th-century American painting: his *Standard Station* of 1963 holds it own against any Edward Hop-

per as American mythology, and a graphic 1966 version of the oil painting is the earliest work on view at the Legion. This image, in fact, adapted from painting to print, was the beginning of his lifelong work as a collaborative printmaker. *Double Standard* (done in 1969 with poet-musician Mason Williams) takes the visual word game one step farther. And the series *News, Mews, Brews, Stews & Dues* (1970) presents a serious challenge to the history of printmaking technology through its use of media such as black currant-pie filling, red salmon roe, Bolognese sauce, Hershey's choco-

late syrup, squid ink and axle grease. So far they're holding up.

Ruscha has been a photographer since 1963, and his images of bleak Western environments, some urban and some rural, are staples of 20th-century American graphics. His accordion-fold

books (like the iconic *Twenty-Six Gasoline Stations* of 1962) are not on view here, but a series of black-and-white parking lots is. A brief career as a filmmaker in the 1970s is alluded to, but not included in the Wattis gift. But if you get to New Mexico this summer, his short 1975 film *Miracle* can be viewed at SITE Santa Fe, across the street from the James Kelly Contemporary installation of Ruscha's latest books, which have the letters 3S2 or 3O2 printed on their covers, reducing the Word to its smallest component.

Ruscha also appeared in Alan Rudolph's *Choose Mein* 1984, as a would-be suitor to Genevieve Bujold's Dr. Nancy Love. Take that, trivia fans!

The artist, now 63, proves that he has lost none of his touch as an innovator. Some of his most recent works on view at the Legion include two holograms that present a brilliant variation on a cinematic theme. Two versions of *The End* from 2000 are holograms of Hollywood's most common words floating across a generic image on a silver screen. ▼

Reilly, really

Arts cover

He's also a connoisseur of those who do impressions of his sibilant nervous-nelly style. "You know who does me good? Jim Carrey. He said I inspired his career. He said that on Barbara Walters. But he doesn't return my phone calls."

Hello, Charles

Reilly is self-deprecating, and he has a love-hate relationship with the clown persona that brought him his fame. His game-show career, highlighted by a long run on *Match Game*, isn't even mentioned in his one-man show. And most of his Broadway career, which included winning a Tony Award for *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* and creating the role of Cornelius Hackl in *Hello, Dolly!*, takes just three minutes to review.

"But I do spend a lot of time on *Skyscraper* [a six-month flop of 1965] because that's where I met Julie Harris," Reilly said. "She told me to do more when everyone else was telling me to do less. She told me I was terrific."

After *Skyscraper* closed, Harris and Reilly remained friends, and he would stage her trademark solo show *The Belle of Amherst*. Though recently incapacitated following a stroke, Harris finished up a 25th-anniversary tour again playing Emily Dickinson earlier this year. And Reilly was nominated for a best-director Tony Award in 1997 for directing Harris and Charles Durning in a revival of *The Gin Game*.

It galls him that most people think his career was limited to bantering with Brett Somers on *Match Game*. He's also proud of his work as an acting teacher and coach, and it was a visit to San Francisco in 1998 to give opera star Renée Fleming notes on her work in *A Streetcar Named Desire* that led to his introduction to the New Conservatory Theatre Center.

"The play isn't what people think it's going to be—you know, giddy and funny," he said. "It is very funny, but not in the way you think it's going to be funny. It will be going along, being perfectly

charming, and suddenly there will be a scene that's right out of Eugene O'Neill or Arthur Miller."

The first act deals with Reilly's early years growing up in a bizarre family in New York, taking him up to his first gig in summer stock. One story that got edited out recalled how he proudly invited his parents to see him star in *Charley's Aunt*, in which his character disguises himself as a woman to help pull off a romantic ruse, only to have his mother pull him aside after the show.

"She said, 'Your father was very upset about the dress.' He wasn't upset about the dress. She was. A dress might make a sissy. We didn't know words like homosexuality."

The second act is "about laughter," Reilly said. "I never had laughter in my family. So when I discovered laughter from seeing people like Bert Lahr, Bobby Clark, Shirley Booth, and Beatrice Lillie, I had to find out how they did that."

"It's about the dream-droppers in his life," said director Paul Linke. "He really has three or four shows inside him."

As it is, the show runs two and a half hours, and that's after a spate of trims. "It's sounds like such an egomaniacal thing because you can do Clarence Darrow and Emily Dickinson and Lincoln in 90 minutes, but for some reason I need all this time. And we've cut out some of the things that I love, like my friendship with Laurence Olivier."

We'll have to wait to see if Patrick Hughes, his companion of 21 years, has made the cut. They met, somewhat to Reilly's chagrin, on a game show.

"It was something called *Battletstars*, and he was a production assistant whose job was to keep the celebrities happy. And it was raining and he met me with an umbrella, and we courted about eight minutes, and I said, 'Your life is worse than mine. Let's pool it.' ▼

Save It for the Stage: The Life of Reilly will run at the New Conservatory Theatre Center through Sept. 9. Tickets are \$20-\$35. Call 861-8972.

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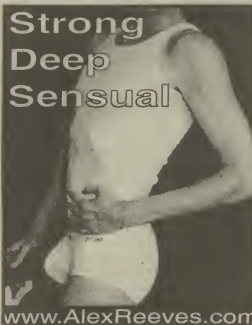
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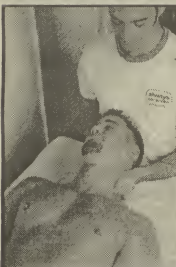
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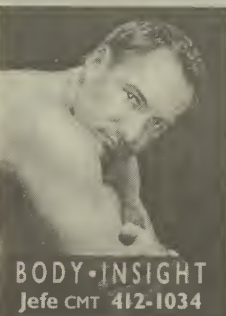
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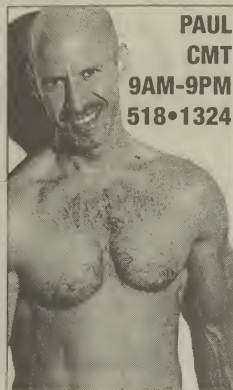


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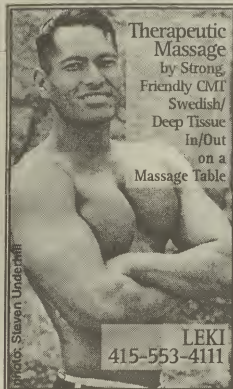
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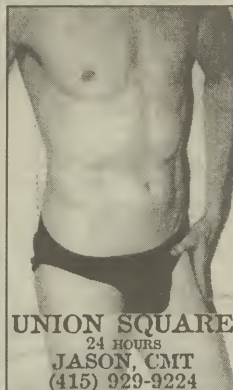
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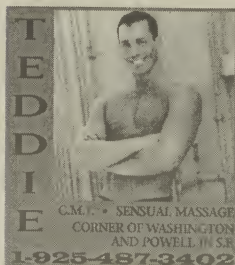
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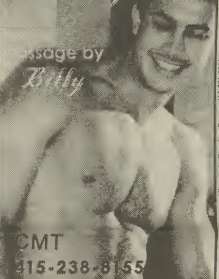
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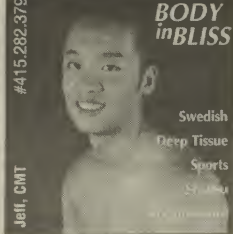
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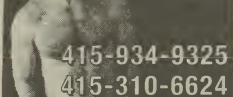
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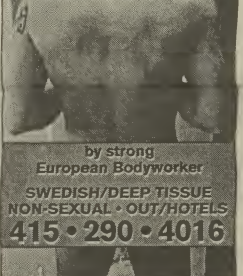
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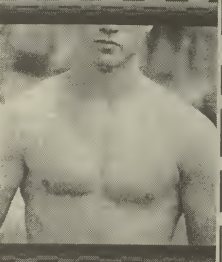
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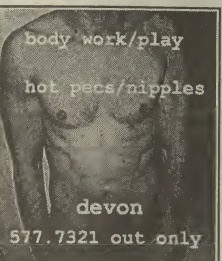
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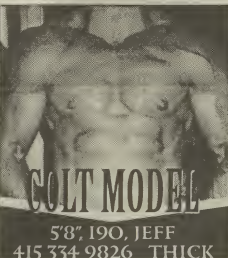
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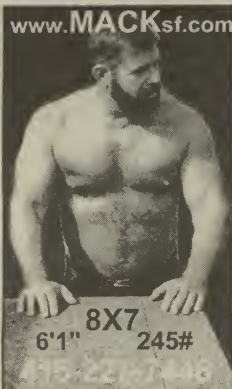
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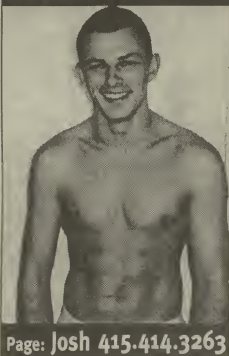
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E36

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A regular black leather motorcycle jacket with a Tom of Finland drawing of 3 men on the back from "Daddy and the Muscle Academy", on or about 8/2. SFPD Report 010 920 943. Call Tony (619) 294-9026 or (415) 563-3866

E33

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GWM seeks a husky lover, slave or boy 25-42. I'm 49 (looks younger) 5'9" 165 HIV- and Hung. Br hair/eyes, trustworthy and sincere. Looking to meet on Maui or S.F.

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E32

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HEPATITIS A&B...no big deal, right?

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No sex. No beer, no wine,
no vodka. No gym.
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Yellow skin. Yellow eyes.
Fever. Chills.
And years later...
some liver damage,
maybe even death.

You can prevent all this—so why don't you?

The fact is, hepatitis *is* a very big deal. And men who have sex with men are at greater risk for hepatitis A and B. That's why the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association (GLMA), as well as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), recommends you get vaccinated to prevent these 2 serious diseases.

PROTECT YOURSELF! See your doctor about vaccination today. For referral to a gay-friendly physician near you, call GLMA at 1-877-LGBTDOC or visit our Web site at www.glma.org/hepatitis


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